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TWOPENCE

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MR. CECIL H. COLLISON.
Acting Manager,
Fred Little's Pantomime, "Babes in the Wood."
This and next, KING'S T., GREENOCK, N.B.
Success and health "To All" in the New Year.

MR. TOM W. CONWAY.
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Refined Vocal Comedian.
Vacant Monday, also for Revue.
Wire, Bandstand, Girvan, Scotland.

MR. T. W. DUNSCOMBE.
Disengaged.
4, Banstead-street, Leeds.

MR. H. W. EBBUTT.
General Manager, La Scala, Greenock.
Wishes all Friends "Good Luck and a Prosperous New Year." Concluded 12 years in Scotland, and "Not a Week Out."

MR. FRED EUSTACE.
Disengaged.
Leading Business.
46a, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

MR. & MRS. CYRIL PRICE EVANS
(Miss Wynne Price). Relinquishing. Disengaged Jan. 7. Light or Low Comedy, Light Juveniles, Boys. C. P. E. attested—Group 38. Offers invited. Perm. add., Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS
as Hempseed, "The Scarlet Pimpernel."
The Strand Theatre, W.C.
18, Mornington-road, Regent's Park, N.W.

MR. JEFFERSON GORE.
Dr. Bigland,
"A Little Bit of Fluff."
New Theatre, Crewe.

MAUD KYNNERSLEY.
Disengaged.
88, Rectory-road, Fulham.

MR. FRED GROVE.
Trotter (Chiselling).
Disengaged.
50, Gresham-road Brixton, S.W.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY.
Add., Wyndham's Theatre; or A.A.
MISS VIOLET HARLEY.
Nell, "Stop Thief!" Dec. 27, Bedford.

MR. and MRS. HENRY HERNE.
Disengaged.
Address, this week, 27, Elm-road, Winchester.
Next, 10, Rusholme-road, Putney, S.W.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE.
Mr. R. H. Lace's Biondello is perfect.—"Burton Daily Mail," June 2, 1913. Arrangements complete. Letters, Actors' Association.

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Prosperity in 1916.
76, Russell-road, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

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(Maud Warburton).
The Managers' Club,
5, Wardour-street, W.

MR. and MRS. LODGE-PERCY
(Miss Henrietta Schrier)
desire most earnestly and sincerely to thank Mr. Bert Feldman

and the entire members of the following Companies:—

"IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY" (A),
"IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY" (A),

"IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY" (B),
"IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY" (B),

"MARY FROM TIPPERARY,"
"MARY FROM TIPPERARY,"

"THE BLIND GIRL'S ROSARY,"
"THE BLIND GIRL'S ROSARY,"

"WHEN THE ANGELUS IS RINGING,"
"WHEN THE ANGELUS IS RINGING,"

for the very beautiful Illuminated Address and the handsome Silver Tea and Coffee Set and Rose Bowl presented to them on Xmas Eve.

Mr. Lodge-Percy and Miss Schrier would also like to express their united thanks to the members of the above Companies for the very loyal and sincere way they have all worked to make the above plays all so successful, and they hope to be connected with each individual member for many years to come.

Unity Makes Perfection.

Mr. Lodge-Percy and Miss Schrier now rehearsing for their forthcoming Tour of
"SUNDAY."
"SUNDAY."
"SUNDAY."
"SUNDAY."
"SUNDAY."

Address, this and next week,
18, Electric-mansions, London, W.

My best thanks to Boys and Girls of "Tipperary" (A) for beautiful Flowers.—H. S.

MR. G. LYON-HASTINGS.
Disengaged Jan. 3.
This, Opera House, Coventry.
Next, 16, Christchurch-avenue, Brondesbury, N.W.

MR. & MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY.
Own Tour.

En route; or Rostrevor, Poulton-le-Fylde.

MR. AUBREY MALLALIEU
thanks Mr. Lionel Rignold for long tour, "What the Butler Saw." Spring, Henry Beauclere in "Diplomacy."

MR. WILLIAM MATTHEWS.
"Oh! I Say."
This week, Royalty Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness.
Next week, Theatre, Carlisle.

MR. C. F. MORGAN.
Disengaged for Resident or Tour. Five years Manager for Mr. Chung Lung Soo. Can join at once. 1a, Church-street, Wolverhampton.

MR. JAMES E. PAGE.
Spettigue, "Charley's Aunt."
Mr. James E. Page's Stephen Spettigue is a perfect display of stage fantasy, which warrants the belief that he could rise to distinction in serious comedy.—"Morning Post," Dec. 20.

Address, London Opera House.

MR. & MRS. WILFRED E. PAYNE
(Miss Marie Housley).
At liberty.
3, Charles-street, Berkhamsted, Herts.

MR. F. PENNINGTON-GUSH.
Jack Doogan in "Stop Thief."
Disengaged end of January.
83, Camden-road, N.W.

MR. FRANK E. PETLEY.
"Where the Rainbow Ends."
Garrick Theatre, W.

MR. HARRY PHILLIPS.
Assistant Manager and Stage Manager, "Don't Crush" Revue."
This week, Empire, Wolverhampton.

MR. E. RAYSON-COUSENS.
Disengaged.
Juvenile and Leading Business.
16, Malwood-road, Balham Hill, S.W.

MR. LEONARD ROBSON.
Disengaged.
Lead, Farcical Comedy, Revue, &c.
25, Guilford-street, W.C.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN.
Special Engagement with "Three Spoonfuls" Co.
Address, 49, Claverton-street, S.W.

MR. EDWARD THANE.
15, Mount Pleasant-lane, Upper Clapton, London, N.E.

MR. E. W. THOMAS
and MISS AGNES KNIGHTS.
At Liberty.
7, Grafton-square, Clapham Common, S.W.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL.
Disengaged.
Character Parts or Old Men.
Address, 27, Charrington-st., Camden Town, N.W.

MR. A. W. TYRER
as Raffles. Spring Tour.
Address,
28, Bridge-avenue-mansions, Hammersmith, W.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR.
Disengaged.
12, Water-lane, Brixton, S.W.

MR. ALBERT WARD.
Disengaged.
Lead, Character and Eccentric Comedy. Produce.
38, Hayter-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.

MR. ERNEST WATTS-TYE.
Disengaged.
Juvenile and Character Juvenile Parts.
19, Chariwood-place, S.W.

MESSRS. FRANK and SIDNEY WEATHERSBY, Theatrical Agency, 3, Bedford-st., Strand. 'Phone, 531 Ger. Tel., "Frivolous Westrand, London."

MR. FRANK WHEATLEY.
Engaged by Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry for Tour of "The Scarlet Pimpernel."
This, Strand Theatre, W.C. Next, A.A.

MR. C. A. WHITE.
Now at liberty. Character and Comedy Parts, or Stage Management.
1, Harewood-road, Merton, S.W.

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(Miss Amber Wyville).
Tour starts April.
Perm. add., 46, Granville-gdns, West Kensington.

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MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies for KENNINGTON THEATRE, S.E.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
Twice-Nightly Season
Twice-Nightly Season
Commencing in February.
Feb. 14, 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 17, 24, on.

COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
March 6, 27, April 24, May 8, 22, 29, on.
Good Twice Nightly Revues and Drama.

OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
April 10, 17, May 1, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12, Aug. 14, on.

ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
June 26, Aug. 14, 21, Sept. 11, 18, 25, on.

HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 28, April 17, May 1, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12, on.
Good Revues, Twice Nightly.

OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
The Opera House is the only building in Northampton holding a Dramatic Licence.
June 5, 12, 19, 26, Sept. 4, 11, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 17, 24, May 1, 15, 29, June 5, 19, 26, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, WOOLWICH.
Lessee and Manager, Jules Richeux.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only, Feb. 7, March 13, April 17, Easter, May 15, June 5, August Bank Holiday, and onwards with exceptions.

THE VERY BEST ATTRACTIONS BOOKED AND REBOOKED.
Re dates, JAY and MANN.

COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 24, May 1, 8, June 12, on.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
March 6, April 3, May 22, on.
First-class business can be done, and only first-class attractions entertained.
Fast booking Autumn.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
WANTED, Immediate and Future Dates, Panto. or Revue, Christmas.
WEATHERSBY'S AGENCY, 3, Bedford-st., W.C.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE, SHREWSBURY.

Touring Managers
Please Note.

Business this year under the
NEW MANAGEMENT
has broken all
PREVIOUS RECORDS

Read what fellow managers testify:—

Theatre Royal, Stockport.
October 2, 1915.

Dear Mr. Maddison,—Permit me to thank you for a most comfortable and excellent week's business.
You are to be congratulated on your business methods, for having brought your Shrewsbury theatre to such a fine standard, financially and otherwise. With *no* soldiers to draw on, and a tropical week, the business was indeed wonderful.
I certainly look on your establishment as one of the best paying theatres in the provinces, and a date to look forward to.
With many thanks for return date and with best wishes
Yours truly,
(Signed) DAN HARDIE, "Sheba" Revue Co.

Managers' Club, W.,
October 23, 1915.

Dear Mr. Maddison,—Many thanks for offer of return date at a few months' interval, which alone speaks volumes for the wonders you have accomplished at Shrewsbury. Awaiting contract.
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ERNEST E. NORRIS.

Grand Theatre, Croydon,
October 27, 1915.

Dear Mr. Maddison,—I am pleased to see the returns for "The Rosary" at your theatre. I have September 18 open and shall be pleased if you will pencil that date for six nights.
Pleased to hear from you at earliest.
Yours truly,
(Signed) ALFRED DAVIES
Manager, Glendinning's "The Rosary" Company.

MUSICAL COMEDIES, West-End REPERTOIRE, PANTOMIMES, and Variety Cos. please send Vacant Dates and EQUITABLE Terms.

We require THE BEST, and ONLY THE BEST, ATTRACTIONS!

Vacant dates: Jan. 31, April 3, 10, 17, May 1, 8, on with exceptions.

READ, MARK, LEARN, and INWARDLY DIGEST. — This is NOW a FIRST-CLASS THEATRE, properly equipped, staffed, advertised, and run on UP-TO-DATE Business Lines by an ENERGETIC Management.

Full particulars to BATES MADDISON
N.B.—Silence a polite negative pro tem.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATH.
Vacant Feb. 7, April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 11 (three nights), June 1 (three nights), onwards, with exceptions.
NEW THEATRE, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 17, 24, June 12, 19, 26, onward, with exceptions.
EMPIRE, WORCESTER,
arrangements complete.
THEATRE ROYAL, BARRY,
Spring Vacancies.
THEATRE ROYAL, TONYPANDY,
Spring Vacancies.
KING'S ELECTRIC THEATRE, BARRY,
Arrangements complete.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Spring Vacancies.
All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Ravenscourt, Worcester.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
First-class Attractions
(Musical preferred)
for
Jan. 31,
March 27,
and on, with exceptions.
Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

W. W. KELLY'S THEATRES.
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WANTED, First-class Attractions, as follows:—
SHAKESPEARE, LIVERPOOL.
Feb. 21, March 27, June 5.
Twice Nightly.
KELLY'S, LIVERPOOL.
March 6 and 20.
Once Nightly.
NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
April 17, May 29, and June 12.
Once or Twice Nightly.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.
Telegraphic Address, "Hustler, Birkenhead."

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KENNINGTON THEATRE.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
TWICE NIGHTLY SEASON.
TWICE NIGHTLY SEASON.
TWICE NIGHTLY SEASON.
COMMENCING IN FEBRUARY.
COMMENCING IN FEBRUARY.
COMMENCING IN FEBRUARY.

WANTED, Managers of High-class Musical Comedies, Dramas, Comedies, and No. 1 Revues, to kindly apply with vacant dates and terms.
Spring Vacancies: Feb. 14, 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, and on.
MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

NEW EMPIRE,
NEWTON ABBOT.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. Poole.
WANTED Known, Wanted Known, opened Boxing Day, Dec. 27.
THE ABOVE THEATRE
HAS NOW BEEN
RECONSTRUCTED TO STAGE THE
LARGEST SHOWS
ON THE ROAD.
ROOF RAISED, EXTRA
DRESSING ROOMS AND EVERY COMFORT.
Vacant Dates.
Jan. 10, onwards.
Terms, apply
POOLE,
New Empire, Newton Abbot.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only.
T.R., DUBLIN.
G.T., DUBLIN.
O.H., BELFAST, March 13, April 24 (?).
O.H., CORK, March 27, and later.
G.T., SWANSEA, March 8, 22, April 17.
G.T., SOUTHAMPTON, Jan. 31 (?).
T.R., BOURNEMOUTH.
P.P.T., BRIGHTON.
HIPPO., DARLINGTON, Various Spring (for music only).
Apply,
THE FREDK. MOUILLOT OFFICES,
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WANTED, a Brilliant Attraction, Jan. 24.
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Once or Twice Nightly.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, 50, Union-st., Oldham.

WANTED, Important Companies (Musical preferred), for
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant, Feb. 10, 11, 12,
March 6, 7, 8, March 13 (six nights).
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, 50, Union-st., Oldham.

THEATRE ROYAL, INVERNESS.
Lessees, George Steel and Charles Locke.
WANTED, Real Good Revues, Pantos., or First-class Attractions of any kind.
Vacant Jan. 31, Feb. 7(?), 14 (through transferring), March 6 (?), March 20 (?), and various on.
GEORGE STEEL, as above.

HARROGATE AND SCARBOROUGH GRAND OPERA HOUSES.
Wanted,
Wanted,
WANTED, Musical Comedies, Revues, &c.
ONCE NIGHTLY, SCARBOROUGH.
TWICE NIGHTLY, HARROGATE.
Jan. 24 (6 nights), Scarborough.
Feb. 28 (three nights), Harrogate.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK,
Opera House, Harrogate.

PIER THEATRE,
EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, Companies, Wanted, Jan. 17, 31 (?)
and various dates onwards.
Apply, G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

THEATRE ROYAL, WHITEHAVEN.
WANTED, Company, Jan. 13, three nights.
STANLEY ROGERS,
Theatre Royal, North Shields.

METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
WANTED, through obliging Manager, First-class Company, Jan. 31.
STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, Big Revues, Big Revues, Big Revues, Big Pantomimes, Big Pantomimes, Big Pantomimes, Combinations, own Companies, Juvenile Troupes. STERLING, 3, Leamington-avenue, Oxford-road, Manchester.

COMPANIES WANTED.

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WANTED, High-class Attractions, Once or Twice Nightly.
DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE, EASTBOURNE,
Jan. 3, 10 (3), 31, Feb. 7 (3), 24 (3), March 3 (3).
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Jan. 13 (3), 31, Feb. 14 (3), 21 (3), 28.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
June 19, 26, July 10, 17, 24.
Revues preferred.
H. W. ROWLAND,
28, Wingate-road, Ravenscourt Park, W.
'Phone Hammersmith 452.
Wires, "Topobill, Hammer, London."

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Twice Nightly. A Great Success.
Lessee and Manager, Eugène C. Stafford.

WANTED, Managers with Big Attractions to apply for Dates for Musical Shows or Good London Plays. No Revues. Vacant dates, Jan. 3, Company gone off the road. Now booking Spring Dates from March 27 on. Silence a polite negative. Write or wire for terms to E. C. STAFFORD, as above.

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WANTED, Dramas, Musical Comedies, Revues, and Specialities of all sorts, present and future dates. Apply, T. C. RAWES.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Productions, once nightly, Feb. 14, 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, onwards with exceptions, till Easter. Twice nightly from Easter onwards, with exceptions. Tidworth to follow in most instances. ALFRED MANNERS, as above.

WANTED, good Revues and Dramas for immediate dates in and near London
Full particulars, FRANK HARDIE, Agency, Broadmead House, Panton-street, Haymarket. 'Phone, Gerrard, 4,644.

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"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
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"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

25th Year of Continuous Touring.

The only Napoleonic Play that has ever stood the Test of Time. All others, like Napoleon himself, have met their Waterloo.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Attraction, weeks of Feb. 7 and 14.

Once or Twice Nighly.

Wire or write to

W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

Telegraphic address, "Hustler, Birkenhead."

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
It is one of the most charming plays ever presented to the public.—"Irish Truth."
An enormous Success.
Songs, Dances, Specialities.
Full Chorus of Real Negroes.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Feb. 7, 14.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Palace, Rochdale.

"EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Jan. 10 (3 nights),
Jan. 17, 24,
Feb. 3 (3 nights), 10, and on.
All communications,
J. PITT-HARDACRE,
Arundel Hotel, W.C., until Sunday.
After, County Hall, St. Albans.

REVUE. REVUE.
"D. D. D."
"D. D. D."
(Dare-devil Dorothy.)
A Top-liner in the Revue World.
Light, Bright, and Breezy.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Jan. 3, 10, 17.
Jan. 3, 10, 17.
Jan. 3, 10, 17.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
Coliseum, Bury St. Edmunds.

BOTH PLAYS STILL PLAYING TO BIG BUSINESS.

HOW FAR A GIRL CAN GO

By MYLES WALLERTON.

ROMANTIC SPANISH DRAMA.

VACANT—
January 10 and 31, precede Metropole, Glasgow; February 21, precede Grand, Stockton; April 24, May 8, precede Dewsbury; June 12, follow Rochdale; July 17, follow T.R., Sheffield; and few Autumn dates.

The Finest Mounted Drama on Tour.
Clear Stage Only Required

THE WHITE SLAVES OF LONDON

By ARTHUR SHIRLEY.

The First White Slaves Drama Produced in this couutry and still playing to packed business.

VACANT—
January 10, 24, March 6 and 13, precede Portsmouth (5th visit); April 3, follow Grand, Brighton (3rd visit); April 24, follow Metropole, Glasgow (6th visit); July 17, to follow Grand, Stockton; and few Autumn.

Owing to the continued success of this play, all new scenery has been added.

Wire for January 10 for both companies

Address for dates—
STANLEY CARLTON,
Earlham Lodge, St. Margarets-on-Thames

Those who have not received my Souvenir (Treasury Note Wallet) send Post Card with address.

Thanks to Mr. ERNEST DOTTRIDGE and Mr. HARRY PENNINGTON for Contracts this week.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. ERNEST E. NORRIS'S REPERTOIRE CO.
Twelfth Year of Tour.
WANTED, Wanted, Jan. 3 (Midlands); also Easter Week.
Address, Managers' Club, Wardour-street, W.

"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."
WANTED, Theatres for a few Vacant Dates in early Spring.
Address, LIONEL RIGNOLD,
10, Prince Arthur-road, Hampstead, N.W.

"THE WARE CASE."
From Wyndham's T. Mr. Frank Fenton's Co.
WANTED, Jan. 31 (South), March 6 (between London and Liverpool), April 17, 24, May 8, 29, on. F. FENTON, 4, Park-place, St. James's.

"JENNY OMROYD."
WANTED Known, Miss Edith Panting presents
"JENNY OMROYD,
"JENNY OMROYD,
"JENNY OMROYD,
OF OLDHAM."
("The Woman of To-morrow.")
T. G. Bailey as Rev. Mr. Dogmat.
"JENNY OMROYD."
("The Woman of To-morrow.")
Miss Ella Thornton as
JENNY OMROYD.

The best Lancashire Comedy ever written. "Jenny Omroyd" will make you split your sides with laughter.—"Liverpool Weekly Post."

All communications, T. G. BAILEY.
This, Alhambra, Stourbridge.
Next, Queen's, Farnworth.

"A MOTHERLESS MITE" CO.
WANTED, Jan. 10, Jan. 10, Jan. 10 (between Rochdale and Wolverhampton).
Jan. 10. Jan. 10. Jan. 10.
Jan. 10. Jan. 10. Jan. 10.
Address, CHARLES LOCKE,
Savile-road, Dewsbury.

MR. WILL CASEY'S CO.
"HER SAILOR LOVER."

WANTED, for above box-office attraction, Jan. 3 and 10, March 6 and 13. Wire, wire for Jan. 3,
WILL CASEY, Palace Theatre, Battersea.

WANTED, Jan. 3, 10, and later dates for Frederick Mantell's phenomenally successful "Pocket" Pantomime "CINDERELLA," the Record Breaker. New and revised version.
Once or Twice Nightly.
Specially selected London Company, including Miss Ethel Dennison (Cinders); Miss Rhoda Ring (Prince); Mr. Bert Grey (Page).
Coms., STANLEY RUTTER, Hippo., Burslem, Staffs. Wire! Wire!! Wire!!! for Monday.

"MARY FROM TIPPERARY."
"MARY FROM TIPPERARY."
WANTED, Jan. 3, Jan. 3, Jan. 17, Jan. 17.

"IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY."
"IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY."
Jan. 17, Jan. 17,
Feb. 7, Feb. 7.

"WHEN THE ANGELUS IS RINGING."
"WHEN THE ANGELUS IS RINGING."
Jan. 31, Jan. 31.
Jan. 31, Jan. 31.

"THE BLIND GIRL'S ROSARY."
"THE BLIND GIRL'S ROSARY."
Jan. 24, Jan. 24 (through Southend closing),
Jan. 31, Jan. 31.

LODGE PERCY, 18, Electric-mannsions, Brixton, S.W.

"UP, BOYS, AND AT 'EM!"
"UP, BOYS, AND AT 'EM!"
"UP, BOYS, AND AT 'EM!"
"UP, BOYS, AND AT 'EM!"
WANTED, Big Theatres,
Jan. 10, 24.
Jan. 10, 24.
Jan. 10, 24.
Jan. 10, 24.
Jan. 10, 24.
The Greatest of All Military Plays.
Wire. HARRY FOXWELL. Wire.
268, Lytham-road, Blackpool.

C. A. Stephenson
Presents the Funniest Revue
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
FIRST-CLASS COMPANY OF PRINCIPALS.
FULL LONDON BEAUTY CHORUS.
WANTED JAN. 3, 10, 17.
TEN MONTHS' CONSECUTIVE TOUR.
Speaks for itself. Can play one or two hours.
Coms., STEPHENSON,
25, GILLESPIE CRESCENT, EDINBURGH.

CHARLES MACDONA'S
SPECIAL REVIVAL OF
"NIOBE"
(ALL SMILES)
ENORMOUS SUCCESS

The present generation marvel at its wit and cleverness, and declare it infinitely superior to most of the Farcical Comedies produced in recent years Managers please note that "NIOBE" is played twice nightly in its **entirety**, and is meeting with great success.

Refer to Mr. Philip Rodway, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, as to the quality of the company and production.

EVERYTHING CARRIED.

VACANT: February 28, March 6, April 10, 24, and on.
DATES BEING RAPIDLY TAKEN UP.

CHARLES MACDONA,
29a, Charing Cross Road, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE SECOND IN COMMAND."
WANTED, Jan. 3, 17, on. Precede and follow Brighton.
WEATHERSBY'S AGENCY, 3, Bedford-st., W.C.

"THE LIFEGUARDSMAN."
WANTED, Immediate and Future Dates. Entire Production carried.
WEATHERSBY'S AGENCY, 3, Bedford-st., W.C.

"BELLA DONNA."
WANTED, Wanted, Jan. 10, on.
WEATHERSBY'S, 3, Bedford-st., W.C.
Tel., 581 Gerrard.

"HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Jan. 3, on.
WEATHERSBY,
"Frivolous, Westrand, London."

"WHAT A MAN MADE HER."
WANTED, Jan. 3, onward.
WEATHERSBY, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.
Tel., 581 Gerrard.

GEORGE GORDON and ALBERT RAYNER'S
Up-to-the-minute Grand Spectacular Pantomime,
"GOODY TWO SHOES."
"GOODY TWO SHOES."
"GOODY TWO SHOES."
Once or Twice Nightly.
Written and produced by Bert Rutley
(Principal Theatres, Syndicate, and Gibbons' Tours).
First-class Principals. Full Chorus.
Elaborate Dresses. Scenery specially painted by F. H. Bull. Splendid plant of printing. Original and tuneful music.
WANTED, Jan. 24 (to follow Middleton). Also Feb. 7.
Thanks to Messrs. Dottridge, Peel, Jackson, Seebold, Seaborn, Hart, Fioni, H. C. Arnold, and others for contracts and offers.
Wire or write, GEORGE GORDON, this, Hippo., Nuneaton; next, Hippo., Rugby.

SAM LIVESEY'S DRAMATIC SUCCESS.
"A HERITAGE OF HATE."
"A HERITAGE OF HATE."
WANTED, Wanted Wanted,
Jan. 10,
Jan. 10,
Jan. 10,
Wire.
Jan. 17,
Jan. 17,
Jan. 17,
Wire.
SAM LIVESEY,
153, College-road, Deal.

WANTED, Wanted, Jan. 3,
for
THAT REAL RIPPING REVUE,
"ALL ABOARD."
"ALL ABOARD."
Enormous success. New cast, including Randolph Sutton (from the London Pavilion), Ventom Swift, Percy Foreman, George Danton, Olive Aubrey, Lill Mahone, Ernest Annesley, Josephine, Barclay Gammon, Kitty Shaw, Stanton Ketchell, Laurie Vayes, &c.
Only other early dates, Jan. 31, Feb. 7,
Coms., VENTOM SWIFT,
This week, Grand, Pentre, S. Wales.

"A MOTHERLESS MITE" CO.
WANTED, Jan. 10, Jan. 10, Jan. 10 (between Rochdale and Wolverhampton).
Jan. 10. Jan. 10. Jan. 10.
Jan. 10. Jan. 10. Jan. 10.
Address, CHARLES LOCKE,
Savile-road, Dewsbury.

"WITHIN THE LAW."
WANTED, Big Theatre or Music Hall, capable of holding money, for this enormous attraction,
Jan. 24 and 31.
"A MESSAGE FROM MARS."
Vacant Jan. 31 (Scotland).
Apply, HORSFIELD AND WOODWARD,
102, Charing Cross-road, W.C.
'Phone, 5780 Regent.

STEPHEN CROSSLEY'S COMPANY
in the Successful Domestic Play,
"A WOMAN'S HONOUR."
By Florence H. Crossley.
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 3 10, 17, Feb. 14, 21.
Wire for Jan. 3.
CROSSLEY, Palace, Tow Law, Durham.

"ANN" (Fourth Year) and "HIGH SPIRITS."
Once or Twice Nightly.
WANTED, Jan. 10, 24, 31, Feb. 14, 21, April 10, 24. HALDANE CRICHTON, New T., Crewe.

"THE GIRL IN THE TRAIN."
"THE GIRL IN THE TRAIN."
"THE GIRL IN THE TRAIN."
The Vaudeville Musical Comedy Success.
WANTED, Jan. 24, Feb. 14, on, Midlands.
Twice Nightly if required.
HERBERT RALLAND,
19b, Rhodesia-road, Stockwell.

"AS A MAN SOWS."
WANTED, Monday, Jan. 3.
Printing ready.
Wire, wire,
RUBY LEE, Grand Theatre, Wath-on-Dearne.

VACANT MONDAY.
Great Attraction.
MISS MADGE FENTON'S
SUCCESSFUL REVUE,
"COME IN. MISS!"
THE REVUE WITH 35 WEEKS' SOLID SUCCESS.
Refer London Syndicate Halls.
Vacant Monday through transferring.
Also for immediate dates
WIRE, WRITE OR 'PHONE,
MADGE FENTON,
PALACE, CHERITON.
Many thanks Chas. Stafford for further Contracts, and return for Camberwell.

MR. FREDERICK HARRISON'S COMPANIES.
QUINNEYS'
WHO IS HE?
June 5 Vacant for Quinneys'.
NOW BOOKING AUTUMN, 1916.
Communications to
HORACE WATSON,
Haymarket Theatre.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First-class Theatres.
Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Jan. 24 and 31.
Jan. 24 and 31.
Jan. 24 and 31.
Jan. 24 and 31.
"CINDERELLA."
"CINDERELLA."
"CINDERELLA."
"CINDERELLA."
"CINDERELLA."
"CINDERELLA."
Produced with Enormous Success, Dec. 27, Lyric, Hammersmith.
Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Wanted, First-class Theatres.
Jan. 24 and 31.
Jan. 24 and 31.
Jan. 24 and 31.
Jan. 24 and 31.
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
To follow Syndicate Halls.
H. G. BRANDON,
Dramatic Manager I.V.T.A.,
3, Leicester-street, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
a wire for
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Jan. 3 and 10,
for
"REMEMBER BELGIUM."
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Also Repertoire Company.
Also Repertoire Company.
Also Repertoire Company.
Also Repertoire Company.
PERCY BROWN,
2, Lansdowne-road, Bridlington.
'Phone, 173.

CLAUDE ALLINGHAM'S COMPANY.
"MOTHERLESS"
"MOTHERLESS"
"MOTHERLESS"
By Herbert Fuller.
WANTED—
Popular Drama Theatres,
JANUARY 3 and 10, and various onwards.

Booked by Dan Barnard, Esq., first visits; also re-booked Met., Glasgow, etc. First tour terminated Saturday last, O. H., Northampton (R).

NEW SCENERY & PRINTING.
MS. REVISED & IMPROVED.
A STRONG AND ALL-ROUND CAST.

Re dates, please address: ARTHUR JEFFERSON, 132, Charing Cross Rd., London. Wires: Aitenev Ox London. 'Phone: Regent, 1480

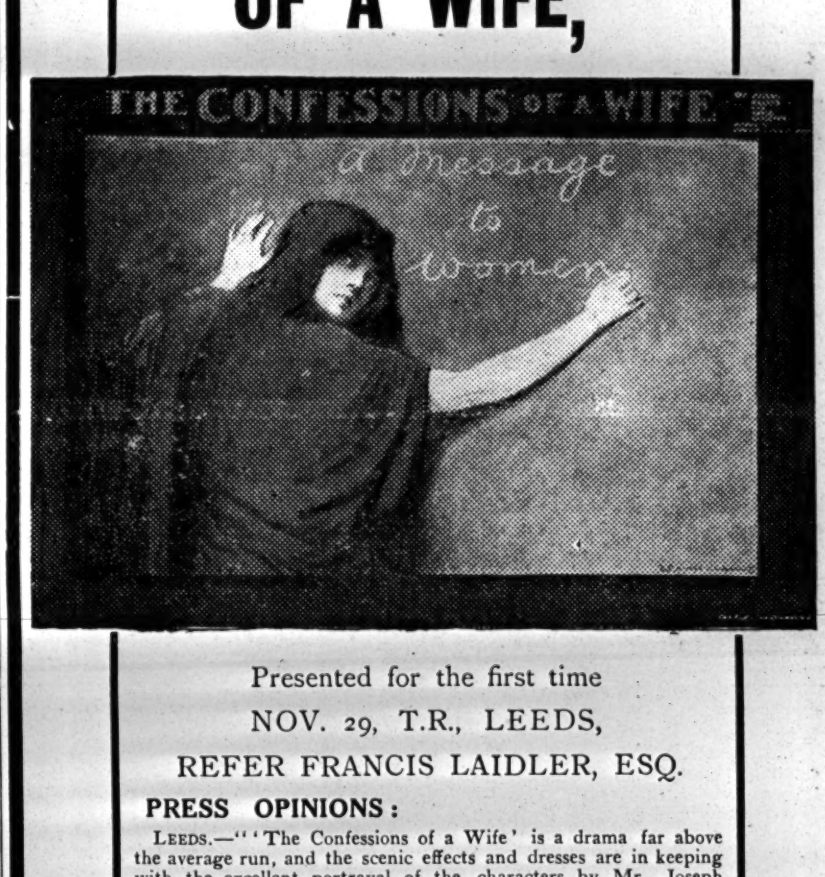
Upon all other matters, direct to Mr. CLAUDE ALLINGHAM, 8/9, Johnson's Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

Wanted Advertisements Continued on Col. 4, Page 25.

THEATRES WANTED.

JOSEPH MILLANE
presents
"SOMEWHERE A VOICE IS CALLING."
Three Companies—
NORTH, MIDLAND, SOUTH.
Record Business Everywhere.
VACANCIES:
JAN. 3, 10, 17, and on,
with exceptions.

NEW PRODUCTION,
"THE CONFESSIONS OF A WIFE,"



Presented for the first time
NOV. 29, T.R., LEEDS,
REFER FRANCIS LAIDLER, ESQ.

PRESS OPINIONS:

LEEDS.—"'The Confessions of a Wife' is a drama far above the average run, and the scenic effects and dresses are in keeping with the excellent portrayal of the characters by Mr. Joseph Millane's Company."

"It is a play that should appeal to all lovers of drama, for the story is strong and well told. The comedy is excellent and the piece throughout has originality."

THE ERA.—"This powerfully written drama should have every success as it grips in every scene and the comedy is excellent. The scenery is beautiful."

THE STAGE.—"That the crime of which she is guilty is justifiable by the provocation offered by the husband is unsupported by the very facts adduced. This is the blemish in a play that otherwise would have been full of fine dramatic possibilities . . . . The climax is quite beyond the bounds of all reasonable probability."

FRANCIS LAIDLER, ESQ.—"A Commercial and Artistic success."

VACANT: JAN. 3, 24, 31,
and on, with exceptions.

The above is a reproduction of a striking 18 sheet in full colours by D. Allen.

TOURING STOCK COMPANY
Presenting:
"Somewhere a Voice is Calling."
"Confessions of a Wife."
"Women and War."
"A White Slave."
"A Child Shall Lead Them."
"Moths."
"St. Elmo," &c.

VACANCIES: JAN. 3, and on.
Seasons of 2, 3, or 6 weeks arranged.

"Somewhere a Voice is Calling" and "The Confessions of a Wife" are written by Joseph Millane and Royce Carleton.

JOSEPH MILLANE,
This and Next: 2, Fisher St., Oldham.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

ABERDEEN.

H.M. THEATRE.—P., The Robert Arthur Theatres Co.; A. M., Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—Mr. Tom B. Davis' pantomime, "Aladdin." The cast includes:—Misses Carda Walker, Ethel Joyce, Connie Clive, Daisy Bannerjee, Adele Garnham, Rosa Vidal, Mabel Isabelle, N. Anderson, Lallie Bray, Phyllis Horsley, Adele Bernard, Dorothy Edwards, Betty Hall, and Ena Robin; Messrs. Harry Spawton, George Rapley, Rex Kempton, Strafford Moss, Albert Hayzen, Hyde and Hilton, the Eight Merry Macs, dancers.

TIVOLI.—P., Tivoli (Aberdeen), Ltd.; A. M., Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Julian Wylie and Jas. W. Tate present "Kiss Me, Sergeant!" The cast includes:—Lynba Liskoff, Coningsby Brierly, Herbert Franklyn, O. E. Lennon, Candy Crowthers, Emily Stephens, Yvonne Nichre, the Eight Markell Girls. Other turns:—Charles Cardow, comedian and entertainer; Anna Rae, violinist; and pictures.

PALACE.—P., Tivoli (Aberdeen), Ltd.; A. M., Mr. F. Lawson Clark.—John Clyde and Co., in "A Scottish Brigand"; Vine and Brewer, in musical (instrumental) act; the Wonderful Poppescus, in horizontal bar act; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 141, Union-street.

ACCRINGTON.

GRAND THEATRE.—P., Mr. William Wilson; R. M., Mr. Fred W. Green.—Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds and company present "The Maid of the Mill" including Miss Gladys Ford-Howitt.

NEW HIPPODROME.—G. M., Mr. J. T. Sutcliffe.—Mr. Gar Kiddie presents the pantomime, "Little Bo-Peep." The cast includes Misses Hilda Grent, Lizzie Payne, Ella Vane, Marie Yessen, Messrs. Gar Kiddie, Harry Ugar, Val Morgan, Kail Stern, Derby and Oakes, Cromfield, Railton, the Hammersley Troupe of Lady Dancers, and the Colle Troupe of Dancers.

Boors, The Chemists, 89-91, Blackburn-road.

ARBROATH.

PALACE THEATRE.—Abel and Wyn present "Selling a Dog"; Rosina Gordon, comedienne and dancer; George Doonan; Flo Denton's Society of Boys and Girls; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 154, High-street.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

EMPIRE.—P., Messrs. William Henry Broadhead & Son; D. M., Mr. H. Winstanley; R. A. M., Mr. John Boyle.—E. C. Jazon and M. Montgomery present "Dick Whittington."

NEW PICTURE PAVILION. — P., Messrs. William Henry Broadhead and Son; D. M., Mr. H. Winstanley; R. A. M., Mr. Arthur Doones; Mus. D., Mr. Fred Coleman.—Charburn's Young Stars and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 140, Old-square.

AYR.

GAIETY THEATRE.—P., Scottish Electric Picture Palaces; M., Mr. Harry Day.—"Within the Law."

NEW PAVILION.—L. & M., Mr. Ben Popplewell.—Ridiculous Recco, in "How to Become an Acrobat"; Flo Burnet, comedienne; Red, White and Blue, cycling artistes; Frou-Frou, a French dog act; Hayman and Lowe, the musical vaudevillians; A. E. Bertie, the miniature comedian; and pictures.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

ROYALTY THEATRE.—L. & M., Mr. Hugh Robertson; R. M., Mr. T. Edward Evans.—Mark Blow presents "Oh! I Say!"

IVOLI.—L. & M., Signor Pepi; R. M., Mr. Emilius Hill.—Jack Johnson in "Seconds Out"; the Cameo Troupe of dancers; and pictures.

BATLEY.

HIPPODROME.—L. and M., Mr. Charles Draycott.—Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty's (Miss Ethel Van Praagh) Repertoire Company, "Under Two Flags," etc., etc.

BIRKENHEAD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole P. and M., Mr. W. W. Kelly; A. M., Mr. Bert Bailey.—For a short run of a week, and played twice-nightly, E. C. Jazon and M. Montgomery produced their comic pantomime, "The Babes in the Wood," on Boxing Day. Prominent in the cast are Miss May Poulton (Robin Hood), Miss Hebe Kneller (Maid Marion), Laurie and Elsie (Will Scaret and Trixie), Miss Minnie Saunders (Allan-a-Dale), Miss Phyllis Dalgleish (Margery Daw), Mr. Will B. Willby (Baron Badlot), Goodall and Knox (Bubble and Squeak), Mr. Clarence Turner (Page), Mr. Bert Laurie (Mary Ellen), Bunny and Bogie (The Babes), Mr. Ted E. Rider (Demon), Mr. Will Challoner (Friar Tuck), and Mr. Dudley Hoare (Village Constable), and the specialities include the Eight Sunstars, the Dandy Four, and the Laurie and Elsie Quartette. The scenic effects are of an imposing character, and the augmented orchestra and chorus is under the direction of Mr. Harry Drew.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole P. & M., Mr. D. J. Clarke; A. M., Mr. John Keating.—Chung Ling Soo, the popular Chinese magician, in conjunction with Miss Suee Seen, is a leading feature. Other attractive turns are those of Pierce and Roslyn, in a melodious interlude; the Merry Mascots, in a pierrot entertainment; Miss Gladys Hooley, with her violin; Scott Gibson, Scotch comedian; C. J. Johnson, the black diamond; Farrer and Griffiths; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—R. M., Mr. Mark Weston.—Mr. Walter Bishop's pantomime, "Dick Whittington," also played on the twice-nightly plan, with Miss Edna Latonne as Dick, had its initial performance on Boxing Day. A really capable cast includes Miss Bessie Burke, the clever juveniles Ray and Jack, Barrett and Elgar (operatic vocalists), and Mr. Walter Bishop. Mr. Ted Young and Day and Deen are among the comedians. The scenery and costumes are on a lavish scale, and the production generally goes with a swing from start to finish.

Boors, The Chemists, 239-241, Grange-road.

BLACKPOOL.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—G. M., Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Arthur Bourchier and company in "Mrs. Pretty and the Premier."

THE PALACE.—G. M., Mr. G. H. Harrop; A. M., Mr. Fred Waller.—Signor Arvi presents the Great Arvi Mystery; Sam Stern; Nichol and Martin; George Bury; My Fancy, dancer; the Four Powers; Fred Maitland and Co.; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 14, Market-street, Church-street, and Station-road (South Shore).

BRADFORD.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—L., Mr. F. Laidler; M., Mr. F. Yearsley.—"Cinderella,' pantomime, produced on Christmas Eve. A notice appears in another column.

THEATRE ROYAL.—L., Mr. John Hart; M., Mr. James Richardson. — The Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, in "Maritana," "The Bohemian Girl," "The Tales of Hoffmann," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "I Pagliacci," "Aida," and "Carmen. The company includes: Mr. Robert Brookes, Miss Elizbeth Burgess, Miss Winifred Geverding, Miss Stella Phelps, Miss Christine Oliver, Mr. Hughes Macklin, Mr. Frank Clarke, Mr. Ch. Bernard, Mr. Samuel Lansdale, Mr. Albert Felton, Mr. Frederick Clendon.

PALACE.—P., Mr. Frank Macnaghten; M., Mr. Ernest Liston.—Heron and Danvers; the Record Quartette; Miss Florence Bostock; Stuart Lomath and Co.; Billy Marsden, Harry Emeric and Nan Ainslie; The Bell Bros.; and pictures.

ALHAMBRA.—M. D., Mr. Francis Laidler; M., Mr. Philip A. Lennon.—Oswald Williams; Lily Lena, comedienne; The Char-Ladies; Witt and Gatti; Louis Hart; Harry Leybourne; Larola; and pictures.

EMPIRE.—P., Moss' Empires, Ltd.; M. D., Mr. Frank Allen; A. M., Mr. Percy Craig.—Harry Day presents "Fads and Fancies"; Stella Stahl, soubrette; Jack Lorimer; Terriss and Romaine; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 60-62, Kirkgate.

BURNLEY.

EMPIRE.—P., Victoria Opera House, Ltd.; M. D., Mr. W. C. Horner.—Dick Ray presents "The Devonshire Girl"; Petite Doris; Will Owen, comedian; The Brandons, in musical act; the Great Donas Trio; and Farrow and Fiske.

PALACE.—P., The Palace Theatre and Hippodrome (Burnley), Ltd.; G. M., The Macnaghten Vaudeville Circuit, Ltd.; M., Mr. J. Rintoul.—Jean Schwiller; Cecil Lyle; Rosella and Clifford; Leyde and Villiers; the Three Curtis's; Bert Weston; The Morandinis; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 90, St. James's-street.

BURSLEM.

COLISEUM.—P., Burslem Coliseum, Ltd.—The Corner-Grey musical ensemble, "Symphonia," heads a fine bill here. The artistes include the popular baritone, Mr. Henry J. Corner. Other turns include Gordoni and Seal, De Gonza and Lady, Tom Lloyd, Chas. B. Henry and Rita Dinsdale, and the Michael Richardini Troupe.

HIPPODROME.—G. M., Messrs. F. W. Smith and R. Colin.—Mr. Frederick Mantell presents the pantomime, "Cinderella." The cast includes Misses Rhoda King, Ethel Dennison, Edith Maynard, Rene Romany, Florrie Dennis, and Daisy Newton, and Messrs. Bert Grey, George Hilton, Ernie French, Ally Stanley, and Arthur Stanley.

BUXTON.

OPERA HOUSE.—P., The Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; S. & G. M., Mr. P. A. Hastings.—This week, and three matinées, pantomime, "Dick Whittington."

HIPPODROME.—L. & M., Mr. Allan Milton.—This week, matinées, Wed. and Sat: Billy Williams, in all his father's successes; Langtry and Willby, comedy duo; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 46, 48, 50, Spring-gardens.

DEWSBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—P., Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; R. M., Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Macdonald and Young's company, "The Marriage Market."

EMPIRE.—P., Messrs. G. W. and G. E. Smith; G. M., Mr. Geo. E. Smith; R. M., Mr. E. J. Jackett; Mus. D., Mr. E. G. Summerfield.—Jack Thomas, Junora and Partner, Alice Craven, Stanley Deane, Lomax and Cissie, Scott Richards, Hanvarr and Lee, and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 38, Market-place.

DONCASTER.

GRAND THEATRE.—L., The Palace Theatre (Doncaster), Ltd.; M., Mr. J. W. North.—Miss Florence Baines and company present "Miss Lancashire, Limited."

PALACE.—P., The Palace Theatre (Doncaster), Ltd.; M., Mr. J. W. North.—The Tom Wong Troupe, six Chinese jugglers, acrobats, and contortionists; the Four Jacksons, in their unique vocal and musical scena; Wal Lesby, character and patter comedian; Chester and Dottridge, comedy couple; Miss Mabel Braine, contralto, and Miss Jessie Reeve, soprano; Bros. Harrow, juvenile gymnasts; Bros. St. John, musical comedians and dancers; "The Wrong Way," an interesting original novelty episode, introducing Michal Braham, Miss Hilda Blanche, and the world's greatest wonder, Little Bright Eyes.

Boors, The Chemists, 71, Frenchgate.

DUBLIN.

THEATRE ROYAL HIPPODROME.—M., Mr. J. H. Hamilton.—An all-star variety programme is presented this week. Topping the bill we have the comedy revue, "Some Glee," featuring the Immaculate Knuts. In addition we have John Paley and Strength Bros., equilibrists, and the Pathé Gazette.

COLISEUM THEATRE.—M., Mr. Geo. H. Marsh; Asst. M., Mr. Mat. C. Byrne.—The attraction here is the musical revue, "Keep to the Right," featuring Mr. Jimmy Learmouth, a very funny comedian.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—L., Mr. B. Armstrong; M., Mr. A. Armstrong.—A novelty in the shape of a pantomime—the first ever produced here—opened to crowded houses on Monday, and Mr. Barney Armstrong is to be congratulated on the undoubted success of his venture. The excellent cast includes Miss Madge Clifton as Principal Boy; Miss Edie Kebble as Cinderella, Miss May Dalton as Dandini; Billy Buttons, the Page, being played by that clever comedian, Scotch Kelly, ably supported by Messrs. Williams and Warden (Dame and Baron). The ballets are a feature of the show, that of the Sixteen Shamrocks and ballet of Irish beauties coming in for much admiration. The scenery is magnificent, the Wedding Cake Scene being original, and the Developing Scene, an artistic tableau, in which the various incidents of the story are portrayed. The booking is a record.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—M., Mr. C. F. Wright.—"The Forty Thieves" is continuing to meet with great success here.

TIVOLI THEATRE.—M., Mr. C. Jones.—A strong holiday bill is arranged here this week, headed by Jessica Black and Co. in comedy farce, "A Girl in Every Port"; also Miss Florrie Gallimore, a captivating chorus comedienne; Norman Field, a harpist of distinction; Zona and Milroy, versatile entertainers; Abel and Welsh, eccentrics; Frank Stannert in a musical act; Volta and Maud, comedy act; George Hall, whistler and comedian; H. O. Borie, comedy juggler; Nora Dixie; and the Pathé Gazette.

ABBEY THEATRE.—M., Mr. St. John G. Ervine.—The attraction here is "The Lord Mayor," a comedy in three acts by Edward McNulty, and "A Minute's Wait," a comedy in one act by Martin J. McHugh.

CONNOR'S CIRCUS, ROTUNDA RINK.—Mr. Fred Connor's Grand Circus continues to attract large audiences here, several new items being introduced this week.

DUNDEE.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Licensee & M. D., Mr. F. W. Wyndham; G. M., Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; A. M., Mr. H. W. Ramsay; Mus. D., Mr. H. E. Loseby.—The D'Oyly Carte principal repertoire opera company opened their second week's engagement here on Monday evening, when the performance of "The Mikado" was hugely appreciated by a huge holiday audience. Mr. Fred Billington, through indisposition, was unfortunately unable to appear, his part of Pooh-Bah being most successfully filled by Mr. Leo Sheffield, whose singing and humour carried his audience with him; Mr. Henry A. Lytton infused a great deal of life into the part of Ko-Ko, and sang his songs in delightful fashion; Mr. Leicester Tunks as the Mikado was deservedly encored for his great song; Mr. Dewey Gibson was an excellent Nanki-Poo, his "A wandering minstrel I" eliciting a warm encore; Miss Elsie McDermid was a delightful Yum-Yum, her acting and singing being excellent; Miss Nellie Briercliffe was an attractive Pitti-Sing; and Peep-Bo was cleverly undertaken by Miss Ella Milne; Miss Bertha Lewis was a most impressive Katisha, scoring a notable success in "The hour of gladness"; and Mr. Frederick Hobbs was an excellent Pish-Tush. On Tuesday evening "The Pirates of Penzance," followed by "Trial by Jury," was the attraction, while "Patience," "The Yeomen of the Guard," Princess Ida," and "The Gondoliers" are also included in the week's bill.

KING'S THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—L., Dundee Theatres, Ltd.; M. D. & Licensee, Mr. W. Firth; M., Mr. S. McIntosh; Mus. D., Mr. E. B. Rogers.—The management of this fine house have secured a strong holiday attraction this week in Fred Allandale's nautical revue, "Heave-O!" as breezy an entertainment as one could wish for. As the heroine, Elizabeth Cheshire, Miss Rene Ash has a part admirably suited to her fascinating methods, and she is very ably seconded by Charlie Harvey, a humorous comedian, whose Bill Stickers is a capital bit of comedy acting; Maud Banks as Sally Brown, Hal Bryon as The Captain, Harold Brown as The Bo'sun, George Franklyn as the Lancashire Lad, Vera Villiers, a most artistic toe dancer, and Rene Mallory fill their roles to perfection. The variety section of the programme comprises Oswald Bemand and his highly-trained birds, a most pleasing turn; Mme. Le Borzy, the celebrated French prima donna; and Jock McPherson in his Scotch character studies, including "The Shepherd," a novel and highly artistic act.

PAVILION.—P., Messrs. R. & J. Pennycook; M., Mr. Robt. Pennycook; Mus. D., Miss Cameron.—The Five Coronas present a charming song scena, "Springtime," and a fine series of films is also screened.

QUEEN'S.—P., Mr. Arthur Henderson.—Lily and Madge Williams in a character study, "Brown and White from Away Down South," go big here; La Belle Hedita, in a revue of international dances, proves herself a veritable queen of terpsichore; and pictures complete.

TIVOLI THEATRE.—P. & M., Messrs. Edward and McIntosh.—Rauli, the Oriental marvel, in a novel speciality act, "Mystery and Flexibility," supplements a big picture programme here.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—P., Messrs. Mackay and Binnell.—The Pertab-Singh and Zenia company, in their weird, mystic, and funny act, and pictures fill the bill here.

THEATRE ROYAL.—P. & M., Mr. Joe Bell.—The bill here comprises Harl Robson, in song and dance, and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 14, Reform-street.

EASTBOURNE.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—L. & M., Messrs. Murray King and Clark; Mus. D., Mr. A. Emmerson.—Murray King and Clark's pantomime, "Aladdin."

PIER THEATRE.—M., Mr. George Hayes; Mus. D., Mr. E. W. Pelgen.—Miss Emma Hutchison's and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in "Brewster's Millions."

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—M. D., Mr. Sidney W. Winter; M., Mr. H. Raymond; Mus. D., Mr. W. H. Ash.—Messrs. Cromo and Hamilton present latest revue, "Limelight."

DEVONSHIRE PARK WINTER GARDEN.—M. & Sec., Mr. E. A. Brown.—Daily concerts by the Devonshire Park Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Norfolk Megoae. Artistes, Joseph Coleman (Nemlock), boy violinist; Pte. F. L. Hubbard, bass-baritone. Wed., Dec. 29, Mr. Charles Hawtrey in two playlets, "The Compleat Angler" and "Q."

IN THE PAVILION.—"Pierrot Pie," a seasonable concoction, produced by Charles Heslop.

Boors, The Chemists, 14-16, Sussex-gardens; 6, Seaside.

EDINBURGH.

KING'S THEATRE.—P., Edinburgh Construction Co., Ltd.; A. M., Mr. Oldbury Brough; Mus. D., Mr. A. Douglas Willcox.—The pantomime, "Dick Whittington," at this house, is now running with smoothness and effect, and is delighting crowded audiences. Miss Lily Morris is a charming hero. The actress is full of vivacity; she sings with much expression, and every scene in which she figures is brightened by her presence. Mr. Eddy Foy appeals not only to the children, but to their elders, in his clever impersonation of the Cat. The comedians, Mr. Chas. A. Stephenson, Mr. Maxwell Carew, Mr. Chas. Fisher, and Messrs. Walton and Lester, work well together; while Miss Ruby Lingard and Mr. Ward Kemp are finished vocalists, from whom the audiences would gladly hear further selections.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—P., Moss' Empires, Ltd.; M. D. Mr. Frank Allen; R. M., Mr. T. Aynsley Cook; Mus. D., Mr. James Howarth.—The entente cordiale comedienne, Liane D'Eve, topping an attractive holiday programme, provides, as usual, a series of bright and lively turns, which are vastly relished by her audiences. Cruikshank also repeats his successful efforts as "the fool of the family"; while Jimmy Britt entertains with a monologue describing funny incidents in his career as an "ex-lightweight champion of the world." The Four Ascots revel in a high-class dancing act; Barry Rayne proves himself an excellent entertainer; Costa and Rico combine skill and diversion in a comedy bar act; and the Seven Perezofs once more startle beholders with their lightning juggling performance.

FOLKESTONE.

PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—P., The Folkestone Pleasure Gardens Co., Ltd.; G. M., Mr. Ewart C. Potter.—Henry Dallas and Louis Casson present "Mies Hook of Holland."

Boors, The Chemists, 12, Rendezvous-street; 61, High-street.

GATESHEAD.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—P., The Newcastle and Gateshead Theatres, Ltd.; G. M., Mr. Stanley Rogers; A. M., Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Tom Vernon presents "Little Bo-Peep."

Boors, The Chemists, 192, High-street.

GOOLE.

COLISEUM.—L., Mr. B. Firth.—The Carlton Juveniles, vocalists and dancers; the Saxones, in comedy sketch; and pictures.

HANLEY.

GRAND.—M. D., Mr. Charles G. Elphinstone; M., Mr. F. Dudman Bromwich.—This week's bill includes Zella Vondi and company, in a dancing pot-pourri; Vera Caine, the athletic girl; David Poole, ventriloquist; Hunter and Bob, comedians; Dick and Jim, in the jungle; Les Videos, including Leoni, wonders on wheels; and Henry Carlton, in "One Night Only"; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 24 and 26, Piccadilly.

HARTLEPOOL.

PALLADIUM.—L., Mr. Thos. Thompson; M., Mr. Geo. Adamson.—Ted Rawes and company present the pantomime, "Red Riding Hood," with a cast including J. C. Scatter and Frankie Franks.

HUDDERSFIELD.

HIPPODROME.—P., The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; R. M., Mr. S. Winks.—Messrs. Macdonald and Young's company in musical comedy, "The Count of Luxembourg."

PALACE.—P., The Macnaghten Vaudeville Circuit, Ltd.; M., Mr. Herbert Garside.—Morritt, illusionist; the Bernard Ash quartette of entertainers; Tom B. Barr, comedian; Miss Anna Hana, comedienne; Royce, Babs and Royce, singers and dancers; Bert Lloyd, in "What a Pal"; Mozetto, juggler; and pictures.

HULL.

PALACE.—P., Moss' Empires, Ltd.; M. D., Mr. Frank Allen; A. M., Mr. John S. Barnett.—Ernest C. Rolls presents "Good Evening"; Will Tyler; Tom Jones, comedian; Sinclair's Diamonds; and pictures.

TIVOLI.—L., Kingston Varieties Co., Ltd.; M. D., Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Fred Kitchen presents "All Nonsense!"; Allen and Gibbs; the Adele Rosaire Trio, in musical act; and Frank Hartley, entertainer.

Boors, The Chemists, 10 and 12, King Edward-st.

ILKESTON.

PICTUREDROME.—P., Mr. Leon Vint; R. M., Mr. Aubrey Allen.—Leon Vint's company in "A Sailor's Wedding Ring."

Boors, The Chemists, 122-124, Bath-street.

KING'S LYNN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—L., Mr. F. H. Cooper; M., Mr. Chas. Lestree.—Guest and Newlyn; Yetta; the Bassos; the Two Palmores; the Five Flakes; R. T. Chinn; Benson and Jacobs; Nita Bartlett; Walter Wade; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 43 and 44, High-street.

LANCASTER.

GRAND THEATRE.—L. & M., Mr. Stanley Rogers; A. M., Mr. Tom Braithwaite.—Mr. Douglas Vine's full London company in "The Girl in the Taxi."

Boors, The Chemists, 36-38, Penny-street.

LEEK.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—P., The Leek Theatre Co., Ltd.; L. & G. M., Mr. Allan Milton; R. M., Mr. J. W. Malpass; Mus. D., Mr. Robert Parsons.—Mr. Claud Allister and Miss Dorothy Overend's company present "Passers-By."

SALISBURY PALACE.—P., Mr. Sampson Salt; L. & G. M., Mr. Allan Milton; R. M., Mr. J. W. Malpass; Mus. D., Mr. Norman Grieve.—Dave Colbert, juggler; Cyril Osmonde, double-voiced vocalist; and pictures. Matinées Monday and Saturday.

Boors, The Chemists, 17, St. Edward-street and Sheep Market-street.

LEITH.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—M., Mr. G. M. Falconer; Mus. D., Mr. Harry Lees.—An attractive holiday week programme is headed by the clever trio of musical experts, Mlle. Madeline Yvonne, Miss Millicent Bradfield, and Miss Rita Lewis, who introduces many delightful selections of vocal and instrumental music. The Three Lascelles, comedy aviators, are cordially welcomed on a first visit; Rich and Russell score as a smart Scotch duo; the pantomime novelty of the Two Taits affords good entertainment; Pat Casey gains much favour as the boy baritone; Wilfred St. Clair, mimic and character actor, contributes an excellent turn; a diverting ventriloquial scena is provided by Bert Williams; and the Eight Sports Company arouse interest and excitement in their lively singing, dancing, and boxing act.

GAIETY THEATRE.—P., Mr. F. R. Graham-Yooll; G. M., Mr. R. M. Stratmore; Mus. D., Mr. John Crossley.—The Royal Crests, an accomplished sextette of lady singers and dancers, appear to advantage in a bright Scotch vocal and dancing divertissement; the Two O'Mars show great skill as comedy acrobats and wire-walking specialists; and pictures complete.

Boors, The Chemists, 100, Kirkgate.

LUTON.

GRAND THEATRE.—P., Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; B. M., Mr. Walter O'Sullivan.—T. Edward Ward presents "Pals."

Boors, The Chemists, 27, George-street.

MANCHESTER.

NEW QUEEN'S THEATRE.—P., Theatre Building, Ltd.; M. D., Mr. John Hart; A. M., Mr. R. Flanagan.—The current attraction here is Robert Courtneidge's popular musical comedy success, "The Arcadians," which is to be played for two weeks, once nightly, with a series of matinées. There is every prospect of good houses, for the production is a capital one, and the cast includes such favourite players as Mr. Dan Agar as Simplicitus and Miss Gwen Clifford as Mrs. Smith.

EMPIRE.—M. D., Mr. Oswald Stoll; A. M., Mr. A. C. Duncan.—Good class variety is maintained here, with G. H. Elliott, the chocolate-coloured coon, at the top of the bill, and at the bottom Les Trombetta, in their famous pot-pourri act, supplemented by entertaining turns by the Brooklyn Comedy Four, Speedwell, Ruby Roys, the Diving Belles, Macdonald Watson and company, Miss Cashmore, and Samaroff and Sonia.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—P., Messrs. Broadhead and Son; A. M., Mr. H. Hearn.—Mr. Raynor and company are playing here in a popular repertoire, including "Moths," "An Ideal Husband," and "Camille."

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—P., Messrs. Broadhead and Son; A. M., Mr. Edward M. Hamilton.—An attractive and catchy revue, "Charlie Chaplin Mad," is presented here twice nightly by Messrs. Taylor and Dawe's company, and is proving excellent holiday fare.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—P., Messrs. Broadhead and Son; A. M., Mr. James Brearley.—The bill here includes Lew Lake's well-known sketches, "My Pal Jerry" and "The Bloomsbury Burglars," with additional turns by Hickey's Comedy Circus; The Bric-a-Bracs, versatile entertainers; Little Zola, comedian; the Carina Trio of accomplished instrumentalists; and Ted Waite, the spasmodic comedian.

PALACE.—M. D., Mr. Walter de Frece; Sec., Mr. Jesse Hewitt; G. M., Mr. Alan Young; A. M., Mr. J. L. Connor; Mus. D., Mr. T. Wrathmall.—Here for a second week Messrs. George Grossmith and Edward Laurillard present, with success, that very enjoyable musical comedy, "The Only Girl," twice nightly. The piece has been transferred lock, stock, and barrel from the Apollo Theatre, London, and is produced under the direction of Mr. Sydney Ellison. It is enthusiastically received by full houses at every performance. The company is strong all round, and includes Kenneth Douglas, George Barrett, Davy Burnaby, Alec Fraser, Herbert Vyvian, Fay Compton, Irene Dillon, Ethel Baird, Mabel Twemlow, and Madelaine Seymour, who, one and all, play well. The scenery is splendid, the music (including a taking waltz) is bright and distinctive, the dresses are very pretty, the dances are good, and the comedy element is delightful. A special dance is done by W. de Mornys and Nancy Leslie.

HIPPODROME.—M. D., Mr. Oswald Stoll; A. M., Mr. George F. Reynolds; Asst. M., Mr. Fred C. Brookes; Mus. D., Mr. Alfred Haines. The highly successful revue from the Alhambra, London, "5064 Gerrard," is the attraction here, and full houses are the rule. An excellent company includes George French, who causes no end of fun as Sammy from Wigan, Syd Crossley, Anna Dorothy (the American comedienne), Dorothy Monkman, Connie Kay, Lafayette Renny, and Harry Ormonde. The piece, which is produced by Andre Charlot, is well mounted and dressed, and there is plenty of delightful dances and good comedy. A most enjoyable performance throughout.

HULME HIPPODROME.—P., Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; G. M., Mr. Winstanley.—"A Year in an Hour" is one of the best all-round revues before the public, and is the attraction here this week, produced by Mr. Leo Fritz. The company is a good one. In addition capital turns are offered by Evelyn Taylor comedienne; and Jarvis and Martini, comedy club throwers.

TIVOLI.—L., Mr. J. Lever; R. M., Mr. J. T. Malpas; A. M., Mr. Horace Cocks.—An excellent programme here includes Dick Ray's revue, "The Beauty Spot"; Gene Gordon, the comedy magician; and Alfred Jepson and Nancy Neild at the piano.

LESLIE'S PAVILION, RUSHOLME.—S. P., Mr. Harry Leslie; A. M., Mr. George Phillips.—The Nobodies, Mr. Harry Leslie's famous concert party, are a big attraction here this week.

Boors, The Chemists, 15, 17, and 19, St. Ann-street, St. Ann's-square; 48 and 50, Oldham-street; 39, Market-street.

NEWPORT.

EMPIRE.—P., Moss' Empires, Ltd.; M. D., Mr. Frank Allen; A. M., Mr. J. H. Milburn.—Messrs. Braham, Blow and Collins present "Peaches"; Little Ena Dayne; Wynne and Winter; Carron Troupe; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 13, Commercial-street.

NORTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—L. and M., Mr. Stanley Rogers; A. M., Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in "The Pearl Girl."

BORO' THEATRE.—P. and M., Messrs. Black Brothers; R. M., Mr. T. W. Wilson; Mus. D., Mr. C. H. Lavender.—Pharos. "The Master of Mystery"; the Four Storks, gymnasts; Mlle. Dagmar, with her performing dogs and pony; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 15-17, Saville-street.

NORTHWICH.

PAVILION, LTD.—D., Messrs. Hamilton and Hughes; M. D., Mr. Robt. Hamilton; R. M., Mr. Harold Booth; Mus. D., Mr. Tom Barlow.—The Raynor Repertoire Co. in a series of plays. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday "Moths" will be presented; Wednesday and Saturday, "The Scarlet Band"; and on Friday, "The Idler."

Boors, The Chemists, 25, High-street.

PONTEFRACT.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—P., Mrs. S. A. Driver.—Harry Foxwell's play, "Up, Boys, and at 'Em."

Boors, The Chemists, 2, Market-place.

PAISLEY.

HIPPODROME.—Sole P., Mr. E. H. Bostock; A. M., Mr. Alfred S. Leslie; M. D., Mr. John Cartmell.—Mr. Louis J. Seymour and company in the revue "Yes! I Think So!"; Jimmy Merrylees, Scotch comedian; Caryl and Hyde, dancing experts; Gaston, Belgian xylophonist; and pictures.

RADCLIFFE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Owner, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; R. M., Mr. Hal Cummings.—The Northern Revues Syndicate present the musical topical comedy, "Keep Going."

Boors, The Chemists, 3, Blackburn-street.

READING.

COUNTY THEATRE.—"Little Red Riding Hood." Produced under the direction of Geo. Brydon Phillips. The company includes: The Misses Madge Lester, Milly Reeves, Marie Storch, Amy Reeves, Primrose Hill, and Sybil Marcelle (Red Riding Hood), Messrs. Fred Regent, Fowler Thatcher, Eddie Foster, Harry Willats, and Alfred Jerome. Specialities by the Three Centrals, Madge Lester, and Madame Victor's Troupe of Cossack Dancers, with Eddie West as principal dancer.

PALACE THEATRE.—May Henderson, the dusky comedy queen; Ellis Barrieton, baritone vocalist; John Warren presents "The Mummy Drug"; the Five Aubreys, drawing-room entertainers; Jack Sands, comedian; Les Manuel Francois, in equilibristic act; Leolin, juggler; Sharp's Tromboneers, "In the Officers' Quarters"; and pictures.

Boors, The Chemists, 90-91, Broad-street; 2, Duke-street.

SALFORD.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—M. D., Mr. W. Turner; G. M., Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Johnny Clegg's pantomime, "Forty Thieves," with H. O. Wills as Ali Baba and Nancy Benyon as Ganem, and specialities by Fred Esdaile, Syd Raymond, J. Stanley Carr, Ellis and Carlton, and Sisters Vincent. Matinées Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—P., Messrs. Wm. Hy. Broadhead and Son; R. A. M., Mr. Fred Dry.—Charles Elderton's revue, "Away Down South." Matinées, Monday and Saturday.

OPERA HOUSE.—M. D., Mr. W. Turner; G. M., Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Tom Sherlock, vocalist, in illustrated songs. Pictures. Matinées daily.

Boors, The Chemists, 277, Chapel-street; 91, Regent-road; 404, Regent-road.

SMETHWICK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole P., Mr. Chas. Barnard; M., Mr. James Chapman.—The Six Brothers Luck present "Chutney."

Boors, The Chemists, 56, Cape-hill.

SOUTHAMPTON.

GRAND THEATRE.—R. M., Mr. Arthur Weston.—The holiday attraction is the George Edwardes company in "Betty." The company includes: Miss Marie Royston, Miss Maidie Hope, Mr. Reg. Dane, Mr. Spencer Trevor, and Mr. Lionel Victor.

PALACE.—R. M., Mr. Will Murray; A. M., Mr. Wally Stephenson.—The Harmony Four, the Soho Trio, Billy French, Hall and Turn, Hugh Hughes, Chas. P. Hill, and Malma.

HIPPODROME.—R. M., Mr. Harry Yardley.—Mr. Geo. Foster presents "The Radium Girl," including Alva York, Syd Howard, &c. Varieties by Roberti, Talbot and Pearce, and Frederica's Whirlwind Terriers.

Boors, The Chemists, 84, High-street, Shirley; 75, East-street; 25, Above Bar; 96, St. Mary's-street; 107, Shirley-road; 29, London-road; 155, Bedovis Hill.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—M., Mr. John W. Coulson; Sec., Miss F. Black.—Mr. John Glendinning's company present "The Rosary." The cast includes Mr. Cole Aspinall, Mr. Stanley Marsh, Mr. Trevor Sylvain, Mr. Alexander Field, Mr. F. J. Lane, Miss Lillian Simpson, Miss Lilla Norton, and Miss Florence Tressilian.

EMPIRE PALACE.—P., The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; M. D., Mr. R. Thornton; G. M., Mr. Frank Allen; B. M., Mr. Harry Esden; R. M., Mr. Edwin Winter.—E. G. Pelton presents "Have a Guess." Lilian Carter, soprano; Kioto Variety Trio; and De Marest, novelty violinist.

Boors, The Chemists, 39, King-street.

STOCKTON.

GRAND THEATRE.—P., Alderman J. Batty; M., Mr. W. Batty.—Miss Henrietta Schrier's and Mr. Lodge Percy's play, "Mary from Tipperary," with Miss Grace Emery in title-part and Mr. Wilfred Lyndon as Lieut. Steyning.

HIPPODROME.—P., North E. Entertainments, Ltd.; M. D., Mr. C. P. Metcalfe; Sec., Mr. G. Stainton.—Mr. C. Elderton's pantomime and company, "Aladdin." Mr. Wal Langtry Abanazar and Miss Maisie Coyne Aladdin. Other prominent artistes are Miss Kitty Dillon, Misses Ethel Gertrude and Lily Gee, Miss Chrissie Bennett, Miss Lottie Longford, Messrs. Shields and Barry, John Vert, Harry Gilmore, Bob Cromwell, Chas. Whall, Henry Eglinton, and Count Gene Manelle, contortionist. Miss Ada Fayne's dancers.

Boors, The Chemists, 104 and 105, High-street.

SUNDERLAND.

KING'S THEATRE.—L. & M., Mr. S. F. Davidson; G. M., Mr. Lloyd Townrow.—Mr. S. F. Davidson's seventh Christmas pantomime, "Red

NEXT WEEK'S CALLS.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1916.

The Editor relies upon the good faith of managers and others, and cannot accept responsibility with regard to any inaccuracies or changes which may be made in the calls.

BOSTOCK TOUR.

BLANTYRE PICTURE HOUSE.—Walter Muir and Co., pictures.

HAMILTON HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 11).—Louis J. Seymour presents "Yes, I Think So," revue, pictures, Jimmy Merrylees, Gaston, Caryl and Hyde. Matinées on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.

IPSWICH HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 2).—Harry Day presents "Business as Usual" revue, Pathé Gazette, W. H. Rowland, Westall Trio.

NORWICH HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 2).—Harry McKelvies presents "Tommy Tucker" pantomime.

PAISLEY HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 11).—Seven Perezoffs, Chris Van Bern, Alice Craven, New Maco, Ragolio, Pete and Minnie Lee, pictures, Sutcliffe Family. Matinées on Monday and Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

LONDON SYNDICATE HALLS.

BRIXTON (rehearsal, 12).—Sidney Burns and company's novel musical mixture, "Don't Tempt Me," Frank Armstrong, French and Wade, Lily Burnand, Bioscope.

CHELSEA (rehearsal, 12).—Chas. Hanbury and Johnny Schofield in "His Last Night Out," Marie Kendall, Jock McKay, George D'Albert, Van Dock, Halma, the Junes, Victor and George, Bioscope, etc.

EAST HAM (rehearsal, 12).—Harry Burns' pantomime, "The Forty Thieves."

EUSTON (rehearsal, 12).—R. G. Knowles, Ruby De Fontenoy, Walter Royd and company, Harold Montague, Helen Moray, McIvor and Scott, Percy Dalton, Van Dock, Essie, Bioscope.

LONDON PAVILION (rehearsal, 11.30).—Jean Fabert's revue, "Honi Soit," Harry Tate and company, R. G. Knowles, Frederic Norton, George D'Albert, Leslie Glenroy, Bioscope.

METROPOLITAN (rehearsal, 12.15).—Conrad and Zeitlin's company, "The Million Dollar Girl," Mme. Gautier, Four Powers, Weston and Lynch, Dorothy Grey, Percy Dalton, Bioscope.

OXFORD (rehearsal, 12).—Marie Lloyd, Walter Bentley's revue, "Odds On," Jock McKay, Daunton Shaw Troupe, Harry Webber, Bert Errol, Devon and Earle, Bioscope.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE (rehearsal, 12).—Boyde and Brinkworth's company, "It's the Goods," Marie Kendall, Dale and O'Malley, A. C. Astor, Bon Air Troupe, Bioscope.

TOTTENHAM (rehearsal, 2).—Herbert F. Crump presents grand Christmas pantomime, "Dick Whittington."

WATFORD (rehearsal, 1).—J. Bannister Howard presents "Little Red Riding Hood."

LONDON THEATRES OF VARIETIES.

BALHAM (rehearsal, 1).—Espinosa's "S'Nice," Rosalie Hamilton, Burnetti, Charlton, Bioscope.

CAMBERWELL (rehearsal, 12).—Harry Day, presents "Passing Events," Ernie Mayne, Four Royal Scots, Radie Stuart, Bioscope.

CLAPHAM (rehearsal, 1).—Fred Kitchen presents "All Eyes," Joe Elvin and company, Keen and Waller, Georgina Barry, Geo. Collins, Bioscope.

CROYDON (rehearsal, 12).—Bransby Williams, Sam Mayo, Ella Shields, Harry Bedford, Zylbastrian Band, 'Varsity Girls, Mart and Pep, Adam Tomlinson, Seven Le Roys.

HAMMERSMITH (rehearsal, 1).—Jack and Evelyn, T. E. Dunville, Nellie Wallace, Yamagata Troupe, Fred Russell, Hunt and Thomas, Fred Elton, Harry Champion, Howard and Collinson, Montmarte Quartette, Bioscope.

HOLBORN (rehearsal, 12).—Chirgwin, Coram, T. E. Dunville, May Moore Duprez, Maidie Scott, Nella Webb, Sig Mabiella, Campbell and Brady, Bioscope, Joe Elvin and company, Bioscope.

ILFORD (rehearsal, 12).—Harry Day and company present "Push and Go," Grace Harris, Marie Louise and Bit, Beatie Lawrie.

ISLINGTON (rehearsal, 1). — Francis Laidman presents "Aladdin."

KILBURN (rehearsal, 1).—Francis Laidman presents "Dick Whittington."

LEWISHAM (rehearsal, 12).—"Goody Two Shoes."

PALLADIUM (rehearsal, 11.30).—George Lashwood, Harry Weldon, Ernest Hastings, Ernie Mayne, Maidie Scott, Tambo and Tambo, Violet Essex, Four Ascots, Bransby Williams, George Mozart, Bioscope.

POPLAR (rehearsal, 1).—Lew Lake and company, "Lights Out, London," Baker and Balfe, De Breans, Pinkie Whyte, Bioscope.

PUTNEY (rehearsal, 12.30).—Harry Day presents "Look Out!" Fred Elton, Marjory Fulton, Bioscope.

ROTHERHITHE (rehearsal, 1).—Sam Mayo, &c.

SHOREDITCH (rehearsal, 12.30).—Marie Lloyd, Jack and Evelyn, Geo. Mozart, Aimee Roberts, Alec Kennedy, Alanson, Four Royal Scots, Ko-Ten Iohi Troupe, Bioscope.

WILLESDEN (rehearsal, 12.30).—Harry Day presents "Merry Moments," Constance Mori, Helen Charles, Harry Wenburn.

WOOLWICH (rehearsal, 12).—Harry Day presents "Hullo, Everybody!" Wilson Hallett, Rose Cambry, C. J. Johnson, the Krakes, Bioscope.

MACNAGHTEN TOUR.

BLACKBURN.—Pictures, Anna Hana, 4 Its, Hugh Hughes, 3 Diving Belles, Nelson Trio, the Slacker, Arthur Ferris.

BRADFORD.—Pictures, 5 Wartons, Tom Barr, Doris Broughton, Jessica Black and company, Ford and Mawson, "Pearls of Music," Montes and Welmas.

BURNLEY. — Pictures, Haydn Mars, Patti Loftus, Ronald George, Marjorie Dawson, Frou-Frou and Dog, and company as booked.

CARLISLE.—Jazon and Montgomery's company in "Robinson Crusoe."

HALIFAX.—Pictures, Bowyer and Westwood, 5 Whiteys, May Henderson, "Missing Link," Leonard and Stevens, Fred Gamble, Bernard.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Jazon and Montgomery's company in "Cinderella."

SOUTHAMPTON.—Pictures, 4 Shades, Joan De Ferrars, Will Gardner, Grace Bros., the Prize-Winner, Miles Stavordale Quartette, "Mystery Gun."

SOUTHPORT.—Pictures, the Ketos, Ella Moore, "Meanest Man on Earth," Bryden Wright, Giordano, George Prince, Fred Curran.

WARRINGTON.—Pictures Ed. J. Huxter, Ayto, Scott and Whaley, Reece Duo, 3 Curtis's, Hinsle, Hall and Turn.

Bradford bars Shipley.
Blackburn bars Darwen and Accrington.
Burnley bars Nelson, Accrington and Colne.
Warrington bars Earlstown and Widnes.
Southampton bars Eastleigh.
Rehearsal at all halls at 12 o'clock.

MOSS' EMPIRES.

BIRMINGHAM EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Ted Hopkins, Sisters Sprightly, Jackson Potter, Frank Wilson, Andy Lace.

BIRMINGHAM GRAND (rehearsal, 1).—Jack Sterzelly, Terriss and Romaine, Molly Wells, Meteor Trio, Scott Gibson, Kate Avigny.

BIRMINGHAM SUMMERHILL PALACE (rehearsal, 12).—Salamonsky Swar, Cyril Osmond, the Orchids.

BRADFORD EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—De Marest, Cooper and Lait, Macdonald and Payne, Cissie Lupino, Alphonso Silvano, Wardell Brothers.

CARDIFF EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Dora Lyric, Dolly Victoria Troupe, Fields and Coco, Chester Kingston.

CARDIFF OLYMPIA (rehearsal, 12).—Nellie Sylvester, Daisy Ray, Kenny and Astin.

EDINBURGH EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Braine and Reeve, Larry Lewis, Violet Stockelle.

FINSBURY PARK EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.

GLASGOW COLISEUM (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.

GLASGOW EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—George Newburn, Darell and Conway, Wee Georgie Beck, De Wynne Bros., Jose De Moraes.

HULL PALACE (rehearsal, 1).—O'Gorman Brothers, Jack Lorimer, Stella Stahl.

LEEDS EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Tom Jones Jimmy Britt, Belle Davis, Magini.

LIVERPOOL EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.

LIVERPOOL OLYMPIA.—Circus.

LONDON HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 1).—"Joyland!" and company as booked.

NEWCASTLE EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.

NEWCASTLE NEW EMPIRE CINEMA.—Picture entertainment.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Will Van Allen, Arthur Lennard.

NEWPORT EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Jean Kram, Dandy George.

NOTTINGHAM EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Harry Brown, Cissie Cave, Clifton and Daisy.

NOTTINGHAM GRAND THEATRE.—"Cinderella."

SHEFFIELD EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Five Olracs, Irene Millar, Bi-Bo-Bi.

SOUTHSEA KING'S THEATRE (rehearsal, 1.30).—Carpatti Brothers, Miss Hendricks, Mamie Russell.

SOUTH SHIELDS EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Ike and Will Scott's pantomime, "Babes in the Wood."

STOKE NEWINGTON ALEXANDRA THEATRE (rehearsal, 11.30) (matinées Monday, Thursday and Saturday, at 2.30).—Bros. Gaumando, Valerie Lipinski and Little Olga, Elsee Brett and Dix.

STRATFORD EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Baby Helen, Chas. Cohan, Frank Le Dent, Caron Troupe.

SUNDERLAND EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Alberta Flahey, David Poole, "Don't Crush."

SWANSEA EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Sammy Shields, Chas. Mildare.

WALSALL GRAND PICTURE HOUSE (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.

WALSALL HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.

WALSALL IMPERIAL HALL (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.

WEST HARTLEPOOL EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Brothers Geddes, Ethel Entwistle, Sados, "All Women."

STOLL TOUR.

ARDWICK GREEN EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12.30).—"Robinson Crusoe," Bioscope.

BRISTOL HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—Bert Lytton, Jen Latona, Alaskas, Bioscope.

CHATHAM EMPIRE (rehearsal, 2).—"Love Birds," the Aberdares, Speedwell, Bioscope.

CHISWICK EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12).—Naval Quartette, Doris' Russian Bears, Houssein, the Elliott Savonas, Johnson Clark, Pauline Travis, the Dennisons, Bioscope.

HACKNEY EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12).—Viviana's Toyshop, Du Calion, Auber, Dan O. Scott, "The Case of Johnny Walker," Mazuz and Mazette, Bioscope.

LEICESTER PALACE (rehearsal, 12).—Happy Tom Parker, O'Hanlon and Rivkin, Little Freddie Hackin, Bioscope.

LONDON COLISEUM (rehearsal, 10).—Mme. Sarah Bernhardt in "Les Cathedrales," Vesta Tilley, Seymour Hicks and Isobel Elsom in "The Bridal Suite," the Grumblers, Imperial Russian Ballet, Anne Godfrey, Cornalla and Eddie, Pasquali, Les Trombetta, Bioscope.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 10).—"5064 Gerrard."

NEW MIDDLESEX (rehearsal, 11).—"All Spoof," Vivian Foster, Edith Fink, Sims and Hurste, Bioscope.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12).—Mannie Gibert, Clown Barker, Frank Maura, Bioscope.

WOOD GREEN EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12.30).—Cole de Losse, the Avolos, May Moore Duprez, Murphy and Mack, Diana and Len Grey, George Ross, Frank H. Fox, George Rymer, Bioscope.

VARIETY THEATRES CONTROLLING CO.

BOSCOMBE HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 1.30).—"Hullo, Boscombe!" Fred Leyton, Volta and Maude, Sylvo, pictures.

BRADFORD ALHAMBRA (rehearsal 12).—Signor Arvi, Woodward's Seals, Elsie Southgate and Sister, Sam Stern, Robb Wilton, Chas. Vincent, Bart and Bart, pictures.

BRIGHTON HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—De Biere, Beth Tate, Mme. Glinka and Co., Gillin, Johnny Glass, Talbot and Pearce, pictures.

GLASGOW ALHAMBRA (rehearsal, 12.)—Augustas Yorke and Robert Leonard, Trocaderians, The Magleys, Witt and Butt, Carmen Turia, Conn and Conrad, Maggie Clifton and Partner, J. P. Ling.

LEEDS HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—"Jack and Jill."

LIVERPOOL HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—"Aladdin."

MANCHESTER PALACE (rehearsal, 11, and Monday matinée).—"The Only Girl."

NEWCASTLE HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 1).—"The Passing Show."

PORTSMOUTH HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 1).—Albert Chevalier, Chung Ling Soo, "War Mates," Bradshaw Bros., "Charladies," Alec Kendal.

SHEFFIELD HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—"Kiss Me, Sergeant," Spessell Bros. and Mack, Monty McVean, Juggling Jays, pictures.

SOUTHAMPTON HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—"Excuse Me," Percy Hayden, The Rangers, Pictures.

SOUTHEND HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 1.30).—"Stop, Look, Listen!" Les Andres, Miller and St. Juste, Frederica's Terriers, pictures.

WOLVERHAMPTON EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—"Honeymoon Express," Jaffa, Katie Butler, Wager, pictures.

ALBANY WARD CIRCUIT.

CHIPPENHAM PALACE.—Chester and Lee's Fantoche Co.

EXMOUTH PUBLIC HALL THEATRE.—The Great Adler.

FROME PALACE.—The Great Xerxes.

GUERNSEY THEATRE ST. JULIANS.—"Lady Nightingale's Dilemma" company.

MIDSOMER NORTON PALLADIUM. — The Weimars and Frances D'Arcy.

PORTLAND BASTON PALACE.—Cissie Cave.

PORTLAND MASONIC HALL.—Cissie Cave.

RADSTOCK PALACE.—Constance Willis.

SALISBURY NEW THEATRE.—Charles Windermere and Co. in "Grumpy."

SALISBURY PALACE.—Zella Vondi and Co., Tiny Tim, Elroy, Rovilli, and Flora and Alberta.

TREHARRIS PALACE.—Eleanor and Bertie and Eddie and Eva.

WARMINSTER PALACE.—The Glovers, Queenie Ray, and Searles.

WEYMOUTH PALLADIUM.—The Harwoods.

YEOVIL PALACE.—Franco's Midgets and the Two Winnies.

Band rehearsals at each place at 1 o'clock, except Weymouth, at 12.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ALDERSHOT HIPPODROME (12.30).—The Five Flying Banvards, Romaine and Dainton, Evelyn Beresford and Co. in "Beauty and the Blobb," Burns and Bentley, Sisters Royce and Sid, Dr. Lynn, Will Hay and Assistant, Hippodrome Pictorial Chronicle.

ASHINGTON MINERS' THEATRE (rehearsal, 1).—H. F. Cornforth's Co., "Think of Me."

AYR PAVILION (rehearsal, 12).—Teener's Russian Dancers, Bros. Artois, Edmonson, Williams and Parker, Australian Alberto, Alabama Four.

BARNSLEY ALHAMBRA (rehearsal, 12).—Oswald Williams, "Mr. Potts," Mona Warwick, Audrey Cooper, The McNaughtons.

BATH PALACE.—Femina Quartette, Vera and Syd, Joe Archer, Laurence Barclay, pictures, etc.

BELFAST EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12).—Revue, "S'hush."

DUBLIN EMPIRE THEATRE (rehearsal, 12).—Barney Armstrong's pantomime, "Cinderella."

DUDLEY OPERA HOUSE.—"Little Red Riding Hood."

EDINBURGH, PRINGLE'S PALACE.—Wilma Forsyth, Dave Summerhill, and Billee Bracey.

EDINBURGH THEATRE ROYAL (rehearsal, 12).—Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's pantomime, "Little Boy Blue."

FELIXSTOWE PLAYHOUSE (rehearsal, 11).—Graham, Harry Blake, and pictures.

GLASGOW PAVILION (rehearsal, 11).—Ralland and Passmore's revue, "Ducks and Quacks," Brull and Hemsley, Richard Rawson, Harry Emeric, and Nan Ainslie, Martelloni Sisters.

HARROGATE EMPIRE (rehearsal, 2).—Nine Dainty Dots, Talalow Dougavon, and pictures.

HARTLEPOOL PALLADIUM (rehearsal, 1).—"Mind Your Eye" Co.

KING'S LYNN THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Mina Bax, Harry McMerry, Geo. Harris, Hylda Lethwaite, the Conways, Ida and Ern, Nellie Dean, Al Penny, Hanvarr and Lee.

KINGSTON EMPIRE.—J. Bannister Howard's pantomime, "Jack and the Beanstalk."

LEITH (EDINBURGH) ALHAMBRA.—Fred Kitchen's revue, "All Square," Will Lacey, and company as booked.

LONDON, GOLDERS GREEN HIPPODROME.—Mr. Charles Hawtrey and company in "The Compleat Angler," the Four O'Mahoneys, Terry Twins, Vera Saunders, etc.

LONDON—GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN (rehearsal, 2).—Jock McPherson, Doody and Wright, Gus Harris, Hicken and Rose, Kitty Grey, Five Bombays, Wal Clinton, Rhoda Paul, pictures, and the Australian Gold Diggers.

LONDON—PALACE.—"Bric-a-Brac," Albert Whelan, Phil and Phlora, Lily Hayes.

LONDON — VICTORIA PALACE. — "The Radium Girl" Co., Mark Sheridan, E. Thornley Dodge, Fredk. Sylvester and Co., Cissie Curlette, Carl Lynn.

MIDDLESBROUGH HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 11).—Percy Honri's "1915" revue company, De Busse, Morandinis.

NORTHAMPTON NEW THEATRE (rehearsal, 12).—Ben Davies, Russell Lane, Henry Rekker, Henry A. Moore, Langley Bros., F. C. Hennegrien, Lily Hayes, Edris Coombs Trio.

OXFORD NEW THEATRE.—Mozetto, Ted Saunders, J. Le Dare, Chas. Capper, The Jellicoes, Eileen Graye, Mischar Michaeloff Trio, Arthur Maynard.

PENGE EMPIRE.—Joe Collins and Rob Lyons's pantomime, "Sinbad the Sailor." Matinées Wednesday and Saturday.

PLYMOUTH PALACE THEATRE (rehearsal, 1).—Harmony Four, Young and Sims, Signor and Madame Borelli, Daisy Griff, Gibbon Duo, Dan Rodney, Rosie Reys, and Ristoria.

READING PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES (rehearsal, 1).—Harry Day's revue, "Shell Out."

SOUTHPORT PALLADIUM (rehearsal, 12).—The English Ballet, the Kamakuras, the Maynervos, Takio, Blake and Granby, Les Marguirites, and Romanoff.

TAUNTON LYCEUM NEW THEATRE (rehearsal, 12).—"A Pair of Silk Stockings."

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Personally Conducted by the Composer, J. W. Johnson.

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The Theatre Royal, Inverness (lessees, George Steel and Charles Locke), reopens this week with the John Ridding Opera company.

Mr. E. M. Boulby, of the Variety Theatre, Hoxton, has been appointed resident manager of the New Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea.

A copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for Twopence Halfpenny.

"Oh! La! La!" is "Looking Around" with fresh ingredients. A very valuable new recruit to the revue is Miss Hetty King, whose work at the music halls makes her an acquisition to any production in which brightness, chic, and personality are the essentials. Her appearance as the Lady Detective is most inspiring, and she is also seen to very great advantage with Mr. Jack Norworth as a girl and boy. Particularly charming is the duet, "When I am yours," which she sings with Mr. Norworth.

MR.

GEORGE BARCLAY

PRESENTS

FRED BARNES

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MR. GEORGE BARCLAY, 221, BRIXTON HILL,

Solely Represents the Above Artiste.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS.

"PUSS IN BOOTS" THE OLD DRURY ANNUAL.

By Geo. R. Sims, Frank Dix and Arthur Collins. Music Composed, Selected and Arranged by J. M. Glover. Produced Monday, Dec. 27.

Grand Duchess of Cerulia..Mr. George Graves
Grand Duke .....Mr. Will Evans
Florian .....Mr. Eric Marshall
Polydor .....Mr. Stanley Lupino
Fritz .....Mr. Arthur Poole
The Magician .....Mr. Reginald Crompton
The Parrot .....Mr. Arthur Conquest
Princess Rosabel ....Miss Florence Smithson
Puss in Boots .....Miss Renée Mayer
Susie Sunshine .....Miss Nancy Buckland
Fairy Queen .....Miss Enid Dark
Miranda .....Miss Aubrey Ashton
Queen of the Butterflies..Miss Dorothy Moody
Violet, the Cook .....Miss Ethel Davies
The Tweenie Maid .....Miss Jane Ayr
Cupid .....Miss Gladiola Hayden
A Woodman .....Mr. McArthur
The Notary .....Mr. Edward Morgan
A Shepherd .....Mr. Wellesley
McQuorkadale .....Mr. Green
A Harvester .....Mr. Tonge

Although, quite rightly, we have been deprived this year of some of our national institutions, Drury Lane pantomime happily is still with us. And, what is more wonderful, not by one jot or one tittle is it less joyous, less beautiful, less delightfully flippant than it was in the hardly-to-be-remembered days before the war. True, there was a new note at the dress rehearsal on Friday afternoon, the presence in the house of hundreds of wounded soldiers. They dominated the scene, they brought the "flavour of war" even into pantomime. Watching them closely, one came to the conclusion that many were seeing a Drury Lane pantomime for the first time, and that they were almost overawed by the wonder of the production. The marvel of the Butterfly ballet, exquisite, living, human butterflies of gold and green and blue and rose flittering and pirouetting and swaying to the soft melody of the orchestra in the Fairy Garden, its background of fountains gleaming and plashing, is something almost unreal, magical, bewildering in its beauty. The soldiers felt it on Friday, and the great audience that filled the house on the afternoon of Boxing Day felt it too; they shouted and laughed and revelled in its loveliness, not because their sense of appreciation was deeper than that of the quiet soldiers, but because their sense of contrast was not so tremendous. There are other lovely scenes at Drury Lane this year, hardly less beautiful than the Fairy Garden (R. McCleery). There is The Village and the Mill (Joseph Harker), a fine rustic village effect; A Woodland Stream and The Heart of the Forest (R. McCleery); The Aldin Arms, a splendid hunting-scene in an old inn (Bruce Smith); Honeymoon-lane (Joseph Harker); and The Magician's Palace (Joseph Harker)—all fulfilling and surpassing the great traditions of the Lane.

The fairy tale this year is "Puss in Boots," and it is told by Messrs. G. R. Sims, Frank Dix, and Arthur Collins; while Mr. J. M. Glover is responsible for the music. The chief fun-makers are Mr. George Graves as the Grand Duchess, Mr. Will Evans as the Grand Duke, and Mr. Stanley Lupino as the miller's second son, Polydor. The melody-makers are Miss Florence Smithson as the Princess, Mr. Eric Marshall (the soldier-songster) as Florian, Miss Nancy Buckland as Susie Sunshine, and Miss Renee Mayer as Puss.

Mr. George Graves takes a woman's part for the first time in our recollection, though probably it is not the first time that he has donned the petticoats on the stage. And a fine aristocratic old dame does Mr. Graves make, in spite of all his comicality, whether in a black and white check dress of many frills, or hunting get-up of black and green, or boudoir wrap, or the Greek costume which he wears when by the art of the Fairy Queen the sour-faced old Duchess has been made young and beautiful again. It is impossible to convey any adequate impression of the quips and cranks, and gestures and asides that Mr. Graves gets into the part of the Duchess. He has a delightfully funny scene interviewing the ducal servants, and another picnicking with the Grand Duke in the hayfields, in which the pair sing a duet of great possibilities, "We do like living in England." Mr Will Evans and Mr. Stanley Lupino have some excellent business together with a motor-car and also taking a cinema picture; and there is a good trio in which Miss Nancy Buckland also takes part, "We none of us mind in these times," which will be one of the hits of the pantomime.

Mr. Stanley Lupino gets ample opportunity for the display of that quaint, cheerful, original humour that has made him so great a success in former years, and his acrobatic exploits are as wonderful as ever. His gifts as a pantomimist, his wonderful dancing, and his power of comic expression are all great helps to the mirthful side of the production; and we make bold to state that no member of the famous family of Lupino upholds with greater distinction and ability their fine traditions of clown and comedian which has been a precious heritage of the British stage for several generations. As Florian, Mr. Eric Marshall quickly established himself by his rich voice, his handsome appearance and his pleasant manner, although as an actor Mr. Marshall does not yet appear quite at ease in his part; but this is a fault that will assuredly be remedied in a very short time. He has a pretty love song, and also some melodious duets with Miss Florence Smithson, who, as the Princess, is more enchanting this year than ever Her frocks (early Victorian) suit her dainty, petite style to perfection, and she trills her bird-like notes, and floats about the stage with delicious airy grace. Her first song, "Just a bit of frou-frou," is charming, and is sung very fetchingly by Miss Smithson. Miss Nancy Buckland has come on tremendously since last year. As fresh and natural as ever, there is now an air of assurance about her that adds immensely to her attraction. She sings "The Powder-puff Brigade" with a chorus of beaux and belles in costumes of, say, the 'fifties, in a manner that delights the audience hugely. Pretty Miss Renée Mayer—little, alas! no longer, but as sweet as ever—is an adorable Pussy Cat and the special joy of the children, who heave delighted sighs of "Oh, pussy!" whenever she makes her appearance. To Miss Mayer is entrusted the patriotic song, this year all about our sailors, with a chorus of ducky little sailor boys. Miss Enid Dark has a pretty air of gracious dignity as the Fairy Queen. Miss Aubrey Ashton is really funny in a pleasantly restrained way as the Duchess's Lady-in-Waiting, cursed with a perpetual cold of the red-nosed, sniffling kind; and Miss Ethel Davies and Miss Jane Ayr get a good deal of hearty fun out of the parts of Violet, the Cook, and the Tweenie Maid. We should not omit the names of Mr. Arthur Conquest as the Parrot, or of Miss Dorothy Moody as the Queen of the Butterflies; and mention should certainly also be made of the graceful, agile Tiller Troupe of dancers, and the clever Ritchie's Reckless Rough Riders.

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND" AT THE DUKE OF YORK'S.

Children's Fantasy, adapted from Lewis Carroll by H. Savile Clarke, Musicv by Walter Slaughter, Revived on Dec. 24 at the Duke of York's.

To begin with, the impersonator of the heroine of Wonderland is once more Miss Ivy Sawyer, as charming and daintily juvenile as ever in her pink frock, her "pinny," and strapped shoes of Tenniel's immortal drawings. She dances as gracefully and sings as sweetly and naturally as when she made her first appearance six or seven years since as the ideal Alice. It will not be easy to replace Miss Ivy Sawyer in the children's affections.

Excellent, again, is Mr. Franklyn Vernon's maddest of Mad Hatters. There never was such inspired, all-pervading insanity. His very limbs are asylums of eccentricities. How the youngsters squealed with delight when his nervous tremors in the Trial Scene made him bite a piece out of his teacup and kick off his shoes in the haughty faces of the King and Queen of Hearts (Mr. Bryan O'Sullivan and Miss Helen Temple)! And never was there a grief-consumed Mock Turtle so lachrymose as that of Mr. James Harcourt, or a more aggressively cheerful Gryphon than Mr. George Nash. The time-honoured joke about the turtle schoolmaster being called tortoise "because he taught us" was greeted with guffaws from the grown-ups, and the "Beautiful Soup" duet, with the ascending "oop," and the ballad of the "Whiting and the snail" were recognised with the warmth due to old friends. A wonderful green Caterpillar was Mr. Roy Lorraine, with his jerky, insecty movements, and a most engaging trio were Miss Nora Edwards, Miss Dorothy Ardley, and Miss Vera Howick, as the March Hare, the White Rabbit, and the Dormouse. Miss Bertha Charna sang and danced daintily as the demure and self-possessed Cat of Cheshire. Miss Nan Gray doubled the parts of the spirited Duchess and the Red Queen with mirth-provoking results, and Miss Clemence Meyer as the sprightly Cook distributed the pepper with a lavish hand. Chief of the charming ballet of lobsters, all much too pretty to eat in their dainty red dresses, was Miss Mai Deacon, a clever little dancer. Another dainty disciple of Terpsichore was pretty Miss Irene Ireland, the Fairy Queen.

Of course, when we got "Through the Looking-glass" there were our old friends Tweedledum and Tweedledee (Messrs. James Harcourt and George Nash), as uproarious as ever with their "No-how" and their "Contrairy-wise," and their gurgling giggles. How the juveniles in the audience shouted when lesson-time came and the cane resounded on the wibbley-wobbley districts of their expansive primrose breeches.

The "Under the Sea where Oysters Dwell" scene, where we were transported to witness the nightmare of that bivalve-devouring pair of humbugs, the weeping Walrus (Mr. Bryan O'Sullivan) and the cold-blooded Carpenter (Mr. Charles Hersee) was a wonderful piece of stage imagery, of gorgeous marine plants and flowers, of corals, octopuses, sea-horses, and big spiney shells, and large real fish swimming mysteriously behind the back drop. Here we saw delightful ballets—all arranged by Mlle. Lilian Leoffeler—of baby oysters, seaweeds, and coral, and a very clever dance performed by the radiant Oyster Queen (Miss Vera Clark), who is certainly the most wonderful little première danseuse of her age we have ever seen. A word must be given to another very young artiste, little Vera Desmond, aged ten years (trained, like all the other juveniles in this fine production, at Stedman's), who sang Snowdrop's song so charmingly in the Palace Garden that she was encored and recalled over and over again.

Enchanted glades and gardens and over-and-under-sea escapes have been painted in enchanting fashion by Mr. James Hicks, and in the dream-staging Mr. Archibald H. Griffiths and Mr. Herbert Cottesmore are experts. The music, too—the traditional Walter Slaughter score—is ably conducted by Mr. Archibald Benwell and Mr. Herbert Hainton.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT THE LYCEUM.

Pantomime, Produced on Boxing Day.

Polly Primrose .....Miss Doris Lee
Mrs. Crusoe .....Mr. Ernest Sefton
Oceana .....Miss Elsa Cowie
Sea Spray .....Miss Cynthia Goode
Aurora .....Miss Iris Goode
Davy Jones .....Mr. George Belmore
Lieut. Swanker .....Miss Florence Radcliffe
Susan .....Miss Anna Hastings
Captain Cutlass .....Miss Alice Belmore
Pickles .....Master Jack Marks
Bill the Bo'sun, Mac the Mate ..... Ferguson and Mack
Will Atkins .....Mr. Fred Wolgast
King Rummymug .....Mr. S. Major Jones
Prince Kali .....Chief Kawbawgam
Princess Lulu .....Miss Maudie Olmar
The King's Warriors ..The Sie Tahar Troupe
Goat ..... Himself
Dog .....Mr. Harry Willis
Parrot ..... Rosie
Monkeynut .....Mr. Archie Herbert
Friday ..... Hugo
Robinson Crusoe .....Miss Nan C. Hearne

The youngsters are accustomed to look to the Lyceum at Christmas-time for a good rollicking pantomime, and this year Messrs. Fred and Walter Melville have in "Robinson Crusoe" supplied them with a feast of fun, frolic and fancy that should fill the famous house in Wellington-street for many weeks to come. The book has been admirably written by Mr. Newman Maurice, Mr. Sullivan Brooke is again responsible for the music; and the story is illustrated by beautiful scenery and played by a company who work untiringly throughout for the success of the "annual."

A scene that will especially appeal to the kiddies is Robinson's Hut, with its live parrot and goat, which at the initial performance was alternately interested and frightened at the remarkable antics of Friday and Monkeynut, finally making a bolt for the wings. 'Tween Decks of the Saucy Sally, with a riot of laughable business by the funny men in the bunks and out, is surely the most diverting of comic scenes. And one of the most beautiful is The Gems of the Ocean, with its entrancing ballet, invented and arranged by Mlle. Rosa, in which clever Miss Ninette de Valois, little Miss Joan King, Cynthia and Iris Goode, and little Miss Clare, all dance with delightful grace and ease. The concluding scene, the Royal Palace, with its procession of the Allies, and all the principals resplendently attired, is another fine spectacular picture, and Mr. S. Major Jones, the stage manager, is to be cordially complimented on his share in the production.

Miss Nan C. Hearne, who is entrusted with the part of young Robinson, acts with brightness and cleverness throughout, and sings with much feeling that popular song "Keep the home fires burning," the chorus of which was taken up with enthusiasm by the younger members of the audience at the first performance. Miss Hearne also shares in the success of the duet "Different kinds of kisses" with Mrs. Crusoe, and "What do we care" with Polly, and her impersonation throughout is a very attractive one. Merry and bright also is the Polly Perkins of Miss Doris Lee, who as Robinson's loyal sweetheart acts with a keen sense of humour in many funny interludes with Will Atkins; sings in artistic style a character-song, "I want to join the army," and, indeed, does all her work with decided aplomb and finish. Miss Alice Belmore is the most immaculate of "boys" as Captain Cutlass, of the Saucy Sally, and every opportunity offered is taken full advantage of; Miss Elsa Cowie, as Oceana, gives an excellent rendering of that popular number "A little bit of heaven"; and Miss Maudie Olmar, the Princess Lulu, assisted by Chief Kawbawgam as her lover, Prince Kali, score with their singing of "Great big wonderful baby," with its dainty accompanying dance.

A very droll impersonation of Mrs. Crusoe is given by Mr. Ernest Sefton, whose vocal contributions include the latest tongue-twister, "He misses his missis's kisses," and who is prominent throughout in the promotion of hilarity. The bold, bad Will Atkins is another very amusing personage as enacted by Mr. Fred Wolgast, who, with his catch-phrase, "Would you believe it?" and innumerable funnily conceived and worked bits of business, makes merriment at every opportunity. Messrs. Ferguson and Mack as the Bo'sun and the Mate of the Saucy Sally indulge in much droll cross-talk, knockabout and other business, and their burlesque acrobatic dance compels the heartiest laughter; Mr. George Belmore acts with the necessary intensity as the terrifying Davy Jones; Master Jack Marks as Pickles is a capital foil to Will Atkins in many mirth-provoking interludes, and sings a policeman song admirably; and Mr. S. Major Jones, in addition to his arduous duties as stage manager, is responsible for a quietly droll impersonation of King Rummymug.

Friday is well played by Hugo, who introduces many marvellous falls and jumps and some clever horizontal bar work; and another much-enjoyed speciality is the remarkable somersaulting and acrobatic act of the Sie Tahar Troupe. Mr. Harry Willis as the Dog and Mr. Archie Herbert as Monkeynut contribute to the hilarity in the Hut scene, and valuable aid in the success of the production is given by the other members of the company and the ladies of the ballet and chorus. To conclude, there is a comic harlequinade for the youngsters, with Mr. Harry Gardner as the Clown and Mr. Archie Herbert as Pantaloon. The many beautiful scenes are by A. K. Browne, G. A Jackson, and the Lyceum Studios, and the handsome costumes have been expressly designed and executed by Willie Clarkson.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT ALDWYCH.

Pantomime, Produced on Boxing Day.

Baron Mugwump .....Mr. Templar Ellis
Robin Hood .....Miss Cressie Leonard
Maid Marian .....Miss Edith Drayson
Basil, Rupert ..... Bros. Griffiths
Margery Daw .....Miss Bebe Hutchison
Alan-a-Dale .....Miss Eileen Dagmar
Violet Vere-de-Vere.... Johnnie Schofield, jun.
Santa Claus .....Mr. Walter Brodie
Norman .....Miss Audry Hughes
Dorothy .....Miss Lennie Deane
Will Scarlet .....Miss Nettie Wentworth
Colin .....Miss D. O'Shann
Little John .....Miss Nita Palerme
Cock Robin .....Miss Euphan McLaren
Herne the Hunter .....Mr. Bert Wilson
Nurse .....Miss V. St. Lawrence
Friar Tuck .....Mr. Frank Harrison
Fairy Queen .....Miss Molly Williams

Joy will reign in the hearts of those children who go to see "Babes in the Wood" at the Aldwych, for Mr. Bannister Howard's pantomime, the book of which is again by Mr. Fred Bowyer, with music by Mr. B. J. Patterson, is essentially one in which youth asserts itself. The heroes of the story are of tender years, and in the course of many moving incidents the grown-ups are ably assisted by juveniles.

We are first attracted by them in the opening scene, wherein Norman and Dorothy, after being put to bed, are privileged to witness the arrival of Santa Claus, who forthwith proceeds to tell the story of the Babes in the Wood with the children themselves as the central characters. Speedily we are introduced to the Baron Mugwump, whose daughter, Maid Marian, is wooed and won by the outlaw, Robin Hood. The school which the Babes attend is run by Violet Vere-de-Vere, a governess with a cynical outlook on life, and here education is imparted under the most amusing conditions. A novel feature of the school is a set of life-size mechanical toys which go through all sorts of droll movements, while their owner, Wyotti, accomplishes a number of clever balancing feats. Despite the endeavours of Marian, two depraved individuals engaged by the Baron succeed in luring the Babes to the Wood, but soon fall out in the traditional way. When it is said that the Ruffians are impersonated by the Brothers Griffiths it may be taken for granted that the combat between them is a comic one. In the same scene memories of the Blondin Donkey are recalled by a droll encounter with a lion in which the king of beasts is impersonated by Mr. Fred Griffiths with irresistible effect. The covering of the sleeping Babes with leaves by the robins is a pretty episode, and the scene concludes with an exhibition of Blériot's fairy fountains, in which sheets of water descending under changing lights form a striking picture.

Fun is again to the fore in Nottingham Fair, which is chiefly notable for the Brothers Griffiths' performing horse, whose eccentricities arouse shrieks of laughter. Meanwhile the Babes have been rescued by Robin Hood, whose estates have been restored, and his wedding with Maid Marian is announced in a gorgeous garden scene in which bowers of bloom are illuminated by electric light, while little maidens in silver-white dance gracefully. The entry of the principals in gorgeous dress, Robin in pink and Marian in white, and the robbers as two blushing Cupids, add effect to the scene.

The company work loyally together, with gratifying results. Miss Cressie Leonard makes a handsome Robin Hood, entering into the spirit of every scene and singing and dancing with all her usual skill. She has a number of popular songs, "You were the first one to teach me how to love," "Keep the home fires burning," and "Cassidy, V.C.," being rendered with thrilling effect. Miss Leonard cuts a fine figure in khaki, and in her huntsman's dress presents an equally pleasing appearance. Maid Marian has a fresh and girlish exponent in Miss Edith Drayson, who has a good voice and sings with expression. Her tuneful and spirited rendering of "The boys in khaki get the nice girls" is sure to secure for it wide popularity.

The comedians work hard and effectively throughout, Mr. Johnnie Schofield, jun., being untiring in his efforts. Whether as a governess, lady tram-conductor, or as Ophelia in a sleep-walking scene, he is fruitful of fun, and the point of every joke is pressed home. His dancing wins renewed admiration, the "Crocodile Crawl" with Miss Leonard being highly enjoyed. Every assistance in the comic department is given by Mr. Templar Ellis, who makes a characteristic Baron, with quaint byplay. A sweet pair of Babes is seen in Miss Audry Hughes and Miss Lennie Deane, two dainty and unaffected children who speak and act prettily. Miss Deane has a nice voice, and her singing of "Mary from Tipperary" is a feature of the performance. Miss Nettie Wentworth is a smart Will Scarlet, and Miss Bebe Hutchison as Margery Daw and Miss Eileen Dagmar as Alan-a-Dale make a comely pair. Miss Molly Williams as Fairy Queen, Mr. Bert Wilson as Herne the Hunter, and Mr. Frank Harrison as Friar Tuck, carry out their duties efficiently, while Mr. Walter Brodie as Santa Claus, and that well-known actress, Miss V. St. Lawrence, as the Nurse, well maintain the interest of the opening. Solo dances by Miss Euphan McLaren are artistically performed, and Miss Thénia Wrainch's Harmonica Ladies' Orchestra prove themselves excellent musicians.

"JACK HORNER," AT THE MARLBOROUGH.

Pantomime, Produced on Boxing Day.

Jack Horner .....Miss Winifred Ward
Simple Simon .....Mr. Jay Laurier
Charity .....Miss Olive Weir
The King of Hearts and the Queen of Hearts ..... The Anartos
The Knave of Hearts .....Mr. Ted Marcell
The Prince of Hearts .....Mr. Clifford Grey
The Princess of Hearts ..Miss Norah Blaney
The Pieman .....Mr. Alec Stewart
Verita .....Miss Marguerite Destella
Perjurus .....Mr. Frank Rickards
Teddy .....Mr. Forde Roberts

On the afternoon of Boxing Day the Marlborough Theatre was crowded with an audience that displayed throughout the genuine holiday spirit, and showed their complete satisfaction with the pantomime in a manner that must have been exceedingly gratifying to the hardworking manager, Mr. J. Murray Herriot. Founded on the ancient nursery story of little Jack Horner, the Christmas piece proved no exception to the long series of successful pantomime productions at the North London house. The tale, which has to do with the magic jam tarts and the little boy who "sat in a corner eating his Christmas pie," was illustrated by some very pretty scenes, the first part ending with a particularly attractive representation of Sugarland—suggestive of "sugar and spice and all things nice." Ingenuity was shown in the working of a scene on board a yacht, the vessel being made to oscillate in realistic fashion. Quite an elaborate and gorgeous spectacle is the Palace of Cards, where the entrance of all the principal characters in splendid costumes brings the pantomime to a fitting conclusion.

The hero of the story, Jack Horner, had a merry and bright representative in Miss Winifred Ward, who displayed from beginning to end unflagging vivacity, never missing a point that was in the least likely to appeal to the audience. Miss Ward is a clever male impersonator, as was evidenced by her embodiment, first of a young fellow about town, and later as a smart soldier with a taking ditty. Miss Olive Weir, in the rôle of Charity, quickly won favour, both as actress and vocalist; she gave a capital rendering of "What you've never had you never miss," and easily secured a warm welcome in Holloway. Miss Norah Blaney was a pleasing and attractive Princess of Hearts, and was the principal in a charming scene, in which she had the assistance of some half dozen little girls, who, falling asleep, are visited by Santa Claus, the white-bearded old gentleman leaving a toy with each sleeper, as the Princess sings a pretty lullaby, "When the lights are low." Miss Marguerite Destella, as Verita, "the Fairy of Truth," spoke her lines in effective style, and evoked loud applause by her admirable rendering of the ballad, "Show me the way to your heart."

The important part of Simple Simon was entrusted to Mr. Jay Laurier, a comedian who, judging by the hearty reception accorded him at the Boxing Day performances, will quickly become a prime favourite with Marlborough audiences. His command of facial expression is, indeed, remarkable, and then he has a laugh that is quite infectious. He made a big hit with his ditty, "I'm in love," and again scored with a tongue-twister, rendered in his driollest style. That comical couple, the Anartos, as the King and Queen of Hearts, are also to be congratulated on their success. Exceedingly funny was their business as a royal pair, who, like other wedded couples, occasionally have their tiffs. Their topical duet, "It isn't what it used to be," was well received, and, speaking generally, their services were of the greatest value in the scheme of amusement. Mr. Clifford Grey was amusing as the Prince of Hearts, his parody on "Alice where art thou?" eliciting loud applause. Mr. Ted Marcell proved to be a capital exponent of Knave of Hearts, the villain of the plot, the comical skating act which he introduces causing roars of laughter. Mr. Alec Stewart did well as the Pieman, also appearing in other subordinate characters; Mr. Frank Rickards, besides acting as stage manager, was duly impressive as the Demon of Dishonesty; and Mr. Forde Roberts was a capital representative of the very-much-alive Teddy Bear. The speciality dances by Miss Flo Martell's Quintette of dancers deserve a word of praise, while the solo dances given by Miss Rene Gautier were deservedly applauded. The pantomime, which is from the pen of Mr. J. Hickory Wood, was produced under the experienced supervision of Mr. Guyton Heath. The orchestra did good service, under the baton of Mr. Victor Willis, and the ballets were arranged by Miss Nellie Birtles.

"RED RIDING HOOD," AT WIMBLEDON.

On Boxing Afternoon, Mr. Mullholland's Sixth Pantomime.

Dame Durden .....Mr. Gus Garrick
Red Riding Hood .....Miss Kitty O'Neill
Boy Blue .....Miss Aline Andre
Baron Blighterbad-Skunkenschwein (naturalised) .....Mr. Laurie Wylie
Bold Robin Hood .....Mr. Eric Masters
Maid Marian .....Miss Ethel Moore
Friar Tuck .....Mr. Joseph Rowland
Johnny Stout, Johnny Green .....The Bros. Erard
Richard Cœur de Lion ..Mr. Bertram Burleigh
Jack .....Miss Mabel Campbell
Jill .....Miss Enil Zajah
The Witch of the Wood ....Mr. Stefan Halle
The Wehr Wolf .....Espinosa
Little John .....Mr. Maurice Heath
Will Scarlett .....Miss D. Hamilton
Village Blacksmith .....Mr. Dan Demonde
The Landlady .....Miss Helen Tatham

A bright, bustling pantomime, carefully constructed and especially appealing to young folk, in that the stories of Red Riding Hood, with its popular visit to the cottage, and the grandmother's transformation into the wolf, and that of Robin Hood and his merry men of Sherwood Forest, are clearly indicated and demonstrated with incidental mirth and song, is Mr. Mulholland's pantomime, which has been produced and the dances arranged by Espinosa with the assistance of Mr. Stefan Halle. There are eight scenes, and it must be noted that the scenery is deserving of special praise, particularly the forest dell and the fairy palace. The principal songs introduced are "My Normandy girl," sung by Miss Aline Andre, who also renders "A little bit of heaven" very pleasingly; a duet, "The same sort of girl," by Miss Kitty O'Neill and Miss Andre; "Little Miss Don't Care," by Miss O'Neill and chorus of children; "True eyes, blue eyes," by Miss Ethel Moore; a quartette, "Good-bye, Virginia"; "Babies, babies," by Mr. Gus Garrick"; "Show me the way to your heart," by Miss Moore and Mr. Eric Masters; a duet, "Sprinkle me with kisses," by Gus Garrick and Laurie Wylie; and "There's only one England" and "Cassidy, V.C.," by Mr. Eric Masters. The dancing of Espinosa was well applauded, as were also the ballets and the revels of the forest sprites. As to the acting, it was excellent all round, everyone eager to do their best and make the "show" the success that it was. Miss Kitty O'Neill looked the part of Red Riding Hood admirably, being petite and pretty. Miss Aline Andre was an engaging Boy Blue; Miss Ethel Moore was a satisfactory Maid Marian; Miss Mabel Campbell a handsome and smart Jack, and Miss Enil Zajah a fine-looking Jill, while Miss D. Hamilton as Will Scarlett looked well in his vermilion dress. Of the male characters, Mr. Gus Garrick was full of droll humour as Dam-

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Durden, the school scene providing much merriment, also the telephone episode. He worked hard all the time, as did also Mr. Laurie Wylie, who was a most amusing villain. Mr. Eric Masters was a heroic Robin Hood, and showed himself to be possessed of a fine tenor voice. Mr. Joseph Rowland did well in the small part of Friar Tuck; Mr. Bertram Burleigh was imposing and regal as King Richard; Mr. Stefan Halle gave a thoroughly good piece of acting as the Witch of the Wood, and Mr. Maurice Heath was amusing as Little John. Special praise is due to the Bros. Beard, who enacted the parts of Johnny Stout and Johnny Green, for their merry fooling, also for their introductory item of eccentric violin playing, which was thoroughly enjoyed. Espinosa's rendering of the wolf was capital and realistic. To sum up, the pantomime is one that certainly should be witnessed, and that quickly, for it can only be seen within the next month, as it must definitely finish on Saturday, Jan. 22.

"THE FORTY THIEVES," AT BRIXTON THEATRE.

Pantomime, by Newman Maurice, Produced on Boxing Day.

The story of "The Forty Thieves," as told by Mr. Maurice at Brixton Theatre, is the usual one, and the doings of poor Ali Baba and his family as compared with his brother Cassim and the relations of both with the famous band, the Forty Thieves, is not lost throughout the ten excellent scenes; all by J. Soams and assistants. The best scenes are the first, representing the market-place; scene 5, the depths of the forest, and scene 7, the cave; whilst the last, Ali Baba's Palace, is magnificent in its splendour. Popular numbers prevail throughout, Feldman's, we notice, being to the fore, and incidental music specially composed and arranged by Messrs. H. Sullivan Brooke and W. Burton Manning, the latter gentleman conducting cleverly on Monday.

Mr. Maurice has gathered round him a fine cast, who did full justice to the production. Mr. Newman Maurice himself plays Cogia, Ali Baba's wife, and an exceedingly funny "Dame" he is. He starts off well with "I'm in love," a good number, and throughout is an endless source of amusement. Mr. Tom E. Sloan, who plays Ali Baba, is a very funny little fellow, and laughter reigned supreme whilst this mirth provoker had possession of the stage. Two good numbers are allotted to him, "How d'ye do?" and "Sergeant of the force," the latter being followed by some good patter. The Brothers Passmore play two of the Forty Thieves, and score generally as knockabout comedians; both their specialities were clever and funny. Mr. Reginald Maurice played Cassim with rare dramatic fervour. An excellent histrionic performance was his. Mr. Leo Hyland did the little he had to do as the Caliph well, and he was also heard with Miss Georgia Bryton, who played Thisbeana, Cassim's servant, in song and dance, "I'm going back to Georgia."

Among the fair sex pride of place, as principal boy, is given to Miss Katie Marsh, who, girlishly slim of figure, makes an excellent "Ganem." Her numbers, "Till the boys come home" and "They all did the goose-step" proved her cleverness in song and dance, and she acted quite cleverly. Morgiana is played by Miss Dolly Sanson, who is an ideal principal girl, and looked quite sweet. "Any more for the boat train?" with the dance following, and "You're a great big wonderful doll," drew forth loud applause for this clever little lady. Miss Gladys Carlton, too, uses her beautiful soprano voice well, and scored one of the hits of the show with Feldman's "A little bit of heaven," though mention should also be made of her other number, "Show me the way to your heart." Miss Louie White made an excellent Abdallah, Captain of the Forty; she has a fine figure, and was heard in "I'm Captain of the Forty" and "Follow the Sergeant," her acting throughout, and, in fact, her whole performance, was more than admirable. Miss Violet Pender, too, sings well, "Here comes Tilly," and her clever acrobatic dancing earned for her admiration from all. She and the rest of the Pender Troupe in their extremely clever speciality acts, especially the one in scene 7, came in for a big round of applause. The Six Gems, a troupe of pretty girl dancers, are heard in "Virginia" and several terpsichorean efforts which they foot right merrily; and a good-looking chorus sing well, and add to the general success. A crowded house roared its approval at the close, and it seems safe to predict that Brixton's annual is again a winner.

"CINDERELLA" AT KENNINGTON.

Pantomime, Produced on Boxing Day.

Cinderella .....Miss Norah Chalmer
Rudolph .....Miss Dorothy Craske
Choddles .....Mr. Eddie Walker
Archibald .....Mr. Frederic Bentley
Daisy .....Mr. Charles Garry
Dandini .....Mr. Neville Delmar
Arethusa .....Miss Rita Rae Vivien
Mopza .....Miss Nellie Sheffield
Princess Roxana .....Miss Helen Hart
Gaston .....Miss Mabel Graham
Cop ..... Mr. Jock Hood
Catchem .....Mr. Richard Stevens

The standard of excellence which always distinguishes the Kennington pantomime is maintained in "Cinderella," which is written by Messrs. A. M. Thompson and Robert Courtneidge, embellished by beautiful dresses, magnificent scenery, and operatic choruses. The story of Cinderella is allowed to develop on familiar lines, beginning with Heart of the Forest, wherein a change from winter to summer is accomplished by a wave of the fairy's wand. The finish to Part I.—Cinderella's Toilet—is particularly tasteful, with its scheme of silver-grey and white, and its ballet of mirrors, jewels and feathers, leading up to the climax, when Cinderella's coach, lit by over 500 electric lights, and drawn by four miniature ponies, arrives on the scene, amid the most enthusiastic applause. The finale is The Fairy Wedding, which has a gorgeous setting, artistic costumes helping to make a scene that should draw visitors to Kennington for many weeks to come.

The necessities of fun-making are amply provided for in the kitchen scene and On the Way to the Ball, where the comedians revel in many diverting incidents which provoke incessant laughter.

The cast is a well-balanced one. Miss Norah Chalmers makes a refined and demure Cinderella, her two songs, "When the Angelus is ringing" and "Somebody knows, somebody cares," being well rendered. Miss Dorothy Craske as Rudolph is a dashing Prince, and sings "Show me the way to your heart," and "Till the boys come home" ("Keep the home fires burning") with fine zest and vigour. Miss Mabel Graham makes a favourable impression as Gaston. She possesses a fine voice, and her singing of "Blue Eyes" is one of the successes of the evening. Mr. Jock Hood and Mr. Richard Stevens are prime favourites with the juveniles, their cross-talk and knockabout business being received with shrill yells of delight. Mr. Eddie Walker as the doleful Choddles is very good, and sings the songs, "I'm in love" and "Brown bread" in droll style. Mr. Fred Bentley as the henpecked Baron, and Mr. Charles Garry as the domineering Baroness are an admirable pair, and the fun waxes fast and furious whilst these three artistes are on the stage. Mr. Neville Delmar as Dandini is a great favourite, the songs, "Don't say that you've seen me" and "The whistling dandy" being given with excellent taste and finish.

The pantomime reflects great credit on Mr. J. F. Graham, the producer, to whose indefatigable efforts the smooth working is mainly due. There will be two performances daily, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., for the first two weeks, the evening performance finishing at 10.0—an obvious advantage to those in charge of youngsters, in the present darkened state of our thoroughfares.

"ALADDIN" AT GRAND, CLAPHAM.

Pantomime, Produced on Boxing Day.

Aladdin ..... Miss Lily Langtry
Emperor ..... Mr. Harry Claff
Abanazer ..... Mr. Ed. E. Ford
Sloper, Loper .....Bros. Curran
Princess ..... Miss Alice Tremayne
Widow Twankey ..... Mr. Jimmy Ross

Mr. Charles Gulliver presented on Monday afternoon, at the above house, Francis Laindman's production of "Aladdin." The book is by Martyn Bryan and the music by H. E. J. Nation. The opening scene is a street in Pekin, in which the bold Aladdin is discovered kissing the beautiful Princess. From this point we follow the story on the usual conventional lines, visiting in turn the Turkish baths, a scene which provides opportunities for the several comedians, and the cave, in which we are introduced to Miss Judith Espinosa, whose delightful dancing is one of the plums of the show. Next we move to the exterior of the Emperor's palace, and then to Widow Twankey's kitchen, which serves the purposes of fun. We are then switched off to the Thames Embankment, London—a rapid and lengthy journey, but amply compensated for by the appearance of Aladdin as a soldier boy in kilts, in which costume she sings a stirring patriotic number, "We must all fall in." Back then to Pekin and Aladdin's palace, and the usual happy ending.

Miss Lily Langtry tells us in song and dance how "They all did the goose-step," and in every way proves herself a dashing Aladdin. Mr. Harry Claff informs his audience in a cleverly-written topical song that he is "The Emperor of China," and a capital Emperor he is, with his dominating presence and magnificent voice. Miss Alice Tremayne is the charming Princess, whose two songs, "Chinatown" and "Butterfly," are daintily and tunefully rendered. The humorous element is provided by Mr. Ed. E. Ford, a very naughty and scheming Abanazer, and Mr. Jimmy Ross, who is a distinctly amorous Widow Twankey. The Bros. Curran as Sloper and Loper, two comic "men of all work," form a source of prolific amusement for the juvenile element.

The production is pleasingly staged, and an adequate chorus, clothed in varied and well-selected costumes, add much to its brightness. Mlle. Judith Espinosa's Terpsichorean Troupe provided capital and well-arranged dances.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

Produced on Boxing Day.

Robinson Crusoe .....Miss Eva Ellis
Polly Perkins .....Miss Gladys Nelson
Daisy Buttercup .....Miss Mona Way
Jack Mainbrace .....Miss May Seller
Princess Put-a-Nee .....Miss Minnie Elsie
Captain Capstan and Bulwark Billy
Messrs. Victor and Louis
Will Aitkins .....Mr. Charles Tolcher
Man Friday .....Mr. Tommy Ardell
Jacky, the Monkey .....Mr. Harry Arno
Womba .....Mr. Fred Ordell
Ye Merry Lassies ..Eight Pearl White Girls
Mrs. Crusoe .....Mr. Tom Costello

Mr. Charles Barnard is presenting here a pantomime which contains plenty of humour, a capital selection of popular songs, bright costumes, and some sprightly dancing. Mr. George Campbell, the author and producer, has kept pretty much to the traditional pantomime story, although he has introduced one or two novel ideas on revue lines. The fact that this year Robinson Crusoe elects to go as a free man for his King and country, instead of being pressganged by the villain Will Aitkins, will appeal to the South London audience.

An excellent cast of principals has been engaged, and they work together well, and will work even better when the show has settled down. As principal boy, Miss Eva Ellis, who looks very pleasing in some attractive clothes, puts as much distinction as possible into her lines. Her songs, particularly "Boys in khaki at the seaside" and "Kentucky home," are quite well rendered. Miss Gladys Nelson sings and acts very vivaciously as Polly Perkins. This young artiste has a good sense of the stage, and sings with verve and expression "Somewhere in France, dear mother" and the "Lovers'-lane" duet in association with Miss Ellis.

That favourite dame, Mrs. Crusoe, has Mr. Tom Costello as her exponent. Mr. Costello's dame parts are very well known—this is his eighteenth appearance in a female part—and his comicalities are given plenty of scope in this production. He has some good burlesque business with Will Aitkins and Captain Capstan and Bulwark Billy; and his circus lady should develop into something quite funny. His song, "Kiss me," is also very good fun, and the revue interruptions by Mr Charles Tolcher and Victor and Louis make a most comic scene. Another first-class humorist is Mr. Charles Tolcher. The villainies of Will Aitkins, whom he plays, are for the most part allowed to slide, and whenever he is given a free hand for burlesque business he does some amusing work. The song, "The Junior Job-lot Club," in which he imitates six different nationalities, is well above the average pantomime material, and his imitation of Charlie Chaplin is good enough to be worked up into a longer scene. Victor and Louis—Captain Capstan and Bulwark Billy respectively—make successful sailor lads, and help to sustain the humour of the show. Their dialogue in the first scene is a little too long, but their boxing scene is a thoroughly good bit of burlesque acting. As Princess Put-a-Nee, Miss Minnie Elsie has little else to do except sing a song, "In the valley of the moon," which was rendered quite successfully.

In the smaller parts commendation should be given to Mr. Tommy Ardell, as Man Friday; to Jacky, the Monkey, a clever little animal study by Mr. Harry Arno; and to Misses Mona Way and May Seller, who did all that was possible in the parts of Daisy Buttercup and Jack Mainbrace. Some good dancing was given by the Eight Pearl White Girls, whose work stands out in contrast to the somewhat dull and unintelligent work of the rest of the chorus.

"GOODY TWO-SHOES" AT THE KILBURN EMPIRE.

Mr. Chas. Gulliver's new pantomime, "Goody Two-Shoes," was produced at the Kilburn Empire on Monday with every evidence of success.

The authors, Mr. Wal Pink and Mr. Alec Flood, must be congratulated on having furnished a book brim-full of good things and entirely free from the slightest trace of vulgarity. The plot includes no striking departure from the fable on which the panto. is founded save that the dainty Goody suffers no more dreadful a fate than to be transmogrified into a boy. No one will cavil at this innovation, however, seeing that it furnishes Miss Zetta Mor, who plays the heroine, with an opportunity for giving one or two of her inimitable male impersonations.

The part of the dashing Prince is entrusted to the safe keeping of Miss Millie Jillson, who proved to be an ideal principal boy. This young and sprightly artiste, for whom we can safely prophesy a very successful future, played her part with a bright vivacity which was delightful to behold. Nor was she any less successful from the vocal point of view, her two numbers, "The crocodile crawl" and "Those magnetising eyes," being rapturously received. Miss Zetta Mor, as the fair heroine, Goody, looked no less winsome as a girl than she looked debonair in the male impersonations aforementioned, and charmed the audience with her songs. Great credit to the artiste for her dual impersonations—surely a novel idea in pantomime. Miss Lily Young, as Dorothy, scored well with her number, "The heart of Molly Malone," while Miss Queenie Burnand found great favour with a chorus song, "Oh, Oh, Oh!" and Miss Dora Stewart and Miss Violet Hickman made the most of their all-too-brief opportunities as a couple of village maids.

The comic element has not been forgotten, and an imposing array of comedians disport themselves on the stage on every available occasion. Mr. Josh Dixon as the Widow Whoppe, always on the look-out for a fresh spouse, was irresistibly comic, and made the most of all the opportunities allotted to him, one of his best successes being gained in a burlesque number, "You must sprinkle me with kisses." Messrs. Fyne and Hurley as the Heavenly Twins were in their best vein, and were responsible for a great many merry moments. Their brotherly love manifested itself very strongly, every meeting being chosen as an occasion for a fight of some description or the other, their duel with poniards being particularly funny. Mr. Dick Tubb, as the Village Postman, turned out to be a comedian with a very entertaining style. His facial contortions in themselves constitute a huge source of merriment, and his song, "First I began to smile," was of the genuinely funny order. Truly a capital comedian is Mr. Tubb. Among the immortals Mr. James Russell and Miss Mary Wynne Hulm secured the necessary contrast as the Demon King and the Fairy King respectively. Miss Hulm has an excellent voice of operatic timbre, and gave a particularly tasteful rendering of the popular ballad, "Show me the way to your heart." Nor must we forget Mme. Walker's Juveniles, who contributed greatly to the evening's entertainment.

As befits a Gulliver production, the scenery and dancing were very attractive features of the show. In the first department—under the ægis of Messrs. E. Ryan, Jas. McLeary and H. James—some magnificent pictures were presented, notably the Butterfly's Palace, with novel electrical effects, and the Prince's Palace, a scene of dazzling splendour. As for the dancing, to say it was arranged by Espinosa is to say a deal, the evolutions de ballet bearing the unmistakable print of his master-hand, while Mlle. Marjory Neville, as première danseuse, held everyone enthralled by the charm and grace of her pas seuls.

The pantomime, which was accorded an enthusiastic reception, is produced by Mr. Alec Flood and furnished with some lilting music by Mr. Thos. Gray, who personally conducts the orchestra.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE DALSTON.

Produced on Boxing Day.

IMMORTAL.

The Fairy Godmother ..Miss Barbara Florac

MORTALS

Prince Charming .....Miss Esmé Manetto
Dandini ..... Miss Daisy Hurdle
Baron Hercules Blighter ....Mr. Fred Holt
Cinderella ..... Miss Mabel Harley
Baroness Tiny Blighter ..Miss Kitty Barlow
Melisa .....Mr. George Derricke
Armentina .....Mr. George Rickarde
Capers ....Mr. Charles Resti
Duke of Dalston .....Miss Marie Gresham
Joseph .....Mr. Harold Slade
Viscount Euchred .....Miss E. Beryl
Marquis of Gamesbycourt ..Miss M. D'Egville
Lord Sportingely .....Miss H. D'Egville
Lord Casino .....Miss S. Desmond

Mr. J. Langdon Lee, the lessee and manager of the Dalston, is entitled to much congratulation upon having provided such an attractive and successful Christmas entertainment for his patrons. The production is invented and written by Mr. F. Leslie Moreton, additional scenes being provided by Mr. Stanley Rogers, while the music is composed and arranged by Mr. G. Leoni and Mr. Herbert A. Harrison, the latter conducting a very able orchestra. Produced by Mr. Frank Ayrton, under the personal supervision of Mr. F. Leslie Moreton and Mr. Guyton Heath, the first performance, which took place at the Boxing Day matinée, afforded every proof of careful rehearsal. The "Cinderella" story is closely followed.

The title-rôle of the pantomime was sustained with much natural grace and charm by Miss Mabel Harley, who made an ideal Cinderella. She sang some pretty songs, notably "Love, here is my heart" and "The lads in khaki," and she also took part in duets with Mr. Resti in "Will you waltz with me?" and with Miss Manette in "What you've never had you never miss." Miss Esmé Manette was a real Prince Charming, investing the part with a distinction and elegance calculated to demand general admiration. She sang "We must all fall in if we wish to win" with true martial directness. Her "Good-bye, Virginia," was also a pleasing example of vocalisation. As the Prince's foster-brother, Dandini, Miss Daisy Hurdle was afforded opportunity for the exercise of her natural vivacity, and her vocal capabilities were evidenced to advantage in the songs "There's a light that's burning in the window" and "Oh! Mr. Rubenstein." The Baron had a quaintly humorous representative in Mr. Fred Holt. His comparatively quiet style suited the audience, who, most unsympathetically, roared with laughter at his domestic burdens. He sang "Dance with your Uncle Joseph" and "In these hard times" in a style quite in keeping with the character. With Mr. Resti he also took part in a duet, "Keep it dark." Miss Kitty Barlow as the Baroness, by no means a "Tiny" Blighter, as her name implies, succeeded in making her overbearing methods of dealing with the Baron a source of huge enjoyment to onlookers. She sang "I always hold in having what you fancy" as if she meant it. The daughters of the Baroness, Melisa and Armentina, as represented by Mr. George Derricke and Mr. George Rickarde respectively, were a comically quaint couple. Mr. Derricke sang a pattery type of song, "The villain still pursued her," in a way which could only be described as clever, and Mr. Rickarde's song about kissing also took well. Mr. Charles Resti was a decidedly energetic Capers, his knock-about business being just sufficient, while his sense of humour was absolutely unrestrained. In addition to taking part in duets, he sang some solos, including "Private Michael Cassidy," and also one eulogising "A s'nice ice." Miss Barbara Florac was effective as the Fairy Godmother, and sang a pretty ballad, "When you come home." Miss Marie Gresham was a decidedly attractive Duke of Dalston, and sang prettily "Just we two and the moon." Mr. Harold Slade made quite an imposing Joseph, a royal flunkey, and Miss E. Beryl, Miss M. D'Egville, Miss H. D'Egville, and Miss S. Desmond were elegant as courtiers. Speciality dances were provided by the Kingsley Troupe and Mlle. Wanda, and the full operatic chorus and ballet gave unbounded satisfaction. Among the concerted pieces should be mentioned "I'm going back to London town," "Everybody rags with me," "The fox-trot ball," and others of similar popularity. The scenery is excellent, the "Royal Forest," the "Portals of Fairyland," the "Court Ballroom," and the final, "Love's Triumph," being among the best.

"CINDERELLA" AT CROYDON.

The Hippodrome (Croydon) pantomime, "Cinderella," was produced at a Boxing Day matinée by Messrs. Branegrove and Slaughter, and was at once voted a genuine success, a crowded house greeting it with many manifestations of approval. Quite an interesting book has been submitted by Mr. Newman Maurice, that past master in the art of pantomime writing, who has closely adhered to the well-known favourite story. A charming chorus has been engaged, and their dresses by H. and M. Rayne are a pleasing feature. Artistic scenery is also much in evidence, and we have nothing but praise for the attractive sets. Every care and attention has been given to the music, which is much enlivened by many popular items supplied by Messrs. B. Feldman and Co., Francis, Day and Hunter, and Star Publishing Co. First-rate specialities, deserving cordial mention, are put forward by Mr. Lewis Sydney, Mr. Leo Bliss, Adams and Ward, and the Eight Hippodrome Girls.

Miss Maude Thorne gives a smart and piquant account of herself as Prince Charming, and sings with marked taste. She is an ideal principal boy, always painstaking, and has undoubtedly scored a triumph. Miss Vera Cunningham plays the much-tried heroine with much feminine charm and fascination. She is in real earnest, and renders her ditties with good expression—altogether an enchanting little Cinders. Miss Olive Plant gives a happy portrayal of Dandini, handsome and dignified, and always presents a cheerful front. Miss Dorothy Lloyd makes a bright and lively Margot. Mr. Leo Bliss works hard and incessantly as Baron Nocash, his drollery and witticisms winning hearty applause. Mr. Lewis Sydney is a fruitful source of amusement as Buttons, and comes off with flying colours. Mr. Wyn Weaver is genuinely funny and grotesque as Thisbe, and Mr. Harry Cooke is really comic and entertaining as Clorinda, both working exceptionally well together in true low comedy vein. Sterling services are rendered by Messrs. Adams and Ward as Flip and Flop, the broker's men, who quite satisfy the visitors' appetite for mirthful manifestations. Misses Winifred New, Ivy Davies, and Helga Moore succeed in looking nice as Silverstick, Goldstick, and Sugarstick. Others who win approbation are Mr. Delfosse as Malvino, Miss Edith Delaney as Fairy Crystal, and Miss Dorothy Maurice as Fairy of the Slippers. We can safely predict a success for this Christmas annual.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT CROYDON.

The Christmas pantomime, "Red Riding Hood," under the able direction of Mr. Fred Fredericks, made its first appearance at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, on Monday, and went with swing from beginning to end. We can say at once that, on its merits, it should prove a satisfactory attraction for weeks to come. A cleverly arranged story has been woven together by Messrs. Fred Fredericks and Percy Ford, who have introduced such interesting characters into the plot as Robin Hood and his merry men, Maid Marion, Simple Simon, Boy Blue, and a pantomime Baron, who do not, however, overshadow the orthodox Red Riding Hood personages. The story is quite entertaining, and the interest is well sustained. Messrs. Ben Barrow and Percival Mackey are responsible for the music, which is up to date and tuneful. Most of the latest ditties and melodies have been culled from the extensive repertoire of Messrs. B. Feldman and Co., the Star Music Co., Silberman and Grock, E. Osborne and Co., and Lawrence Wright, and dovetailed into the production. Picturesque and rich scenery has been painted by Mr. George Dodson, whose numerous elaborate sets excel in general excellence. The ballet has been carefully selected, and the dances have been well thought out; whilst the pretty dresses, designed by Wilhelm and executed by Mrs. Boxall, deserve more than passing mention.

Mr. Charles E. Paton enacts the rôle of Dame Hood with irrepressible volatility, and scores most unmistakably. His idea of a pantomime dame is a smart and clever bit of acting, and at all times intensely funny and whimsical. Mr. Sam Hilton's impersonation of Baron Sneak De Twister is rich with broad humour, and he gives unmitigated satisfaction. Mr. Reggie West is quaint and curious as Silly Billy, and he renders invaluable services. Mr. G. W. Bogue puts in strikingly droll business as Poaching Percy, and Mr. Arthur Medwin never fails to make a genuine laugh out of the rôle of Simple Simon. Miss May Carstang is a merry and sparkling Robin Hood, always neat and self-possessed. She gives point and emphasis to her lines, and her songs are rendered with the necessary force and animation. Miss Alice Nixon makes an arch and dainty Maid Marion. Her style is fresh, and she proves herself a refined comedienne. Little Lucie Linda is a sweet and sympathetic Red Riding Hood, quickly gaining the admiration of the audience for her charming efforts. Miss Katie Kay is a sprightly Boy Blue, and Miss Vera Fulcher makes the most of her opportunities as Daffodil, the Fairy Godmother. Mr. Pharnee Medina enacts the part of the Wolf in the best possible manner, and minor rôles are all adequately filled. To Mr. Charles F. J. Watts, the energetic manager of this house, we can give a warm tribute of praise for a pantomime which in every way does him credit.

"BABES IN THE WOOD," AT THE KING'S, HAMMERSMITH.

Pantomime, Produced on Boxing Day.

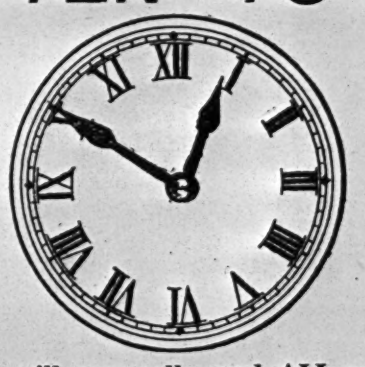
Titania ..... Miss Winifred Evans
Puck ..... Miss Esme Hersee
Santa Claus ..... Mr. Gilbert Durston
Archibald ..... Miss Irene Steele
Evelyn ..... Miss Nelly Daniels
The Baron Cœur de Custard
Mr. Leonard Barry
The Lady Rosabelle (His Daughter)
Miss Flora Ash
Dame Durden ..... Mr. Malcolm Scott
The Miller of Dee..... Mr. Barry Linden
Colin ..... Miss Mabel Funston
Simon ..... Mr. Carson Hicks
Jasper ..... Miss Rene Mowbray
Margery ..... Miss Vera Wilkinson
Squire Chivy ..... Miss Sybil Westmacott
Phyllis .....Miss Claire Barrington
Smirchy Smuggs, Crawley Cuthbert .....Foreman and Fannan
The Village Smith ..... Mr. Paul Russell
The Village Beadle ..... Mr. Fred Earl
The Cabman ..... Mr. Arthur Hale

The selection of the above subject for his "King's Annual" is one of Mr. J. B. Mulholland's happy thoughts. It has a connected story, which appeals to young and old alike, and gives opportunities to all the artistes to do their best in their various styles. The old-fashioned tale is very closely followed, and with many excellent comedians, any number of fascinating and delightful ladies, gorgeous costumes, elegant scenes, and all the latest songs and choruses, there should be no doubt as to the pantomime's popularity.

For the character of Dame Durden, who better than Mr. Malcolm Scott could be engaged? His Dame adds another to his already lengthy list of female celebrities, and it is only to be expected that when he is on the stage laughter reigns supreme. Mr. Scott has a good "Sport" song, and takes part in several capital duets with others of the principals. Mr. Gilbert Durston is a good Santa Claus, and Mr. Barry Linden provides much merriment in his impersonation of the Miller of Dee. Miss Winifred Evans is a handsome Titania, and Miss Esme Hersee makes a dashing and tantalising Puck, whose dancing is much to be admired. Mr. Leonard Barry as the Bold, Bad Baron Cœur de Custard, schemes his villainous plans as if he revels in them, and this creates well-deserved laughter. His singing success is "Michael Cassidy, V.C.," but his share in the comical incidents, and the duets with others, will all make him a favourite at the King's. Mr. Carson Hicks as Simon, Mr. Paul Russell as the Village Smith, and Mr. Fred Earl as the Village Beadle assist materially in the good cause. The two audacious scoundrels, Smirchy Smuggs and Crawley Cuthbert, are in the very capable hands of those two droll comedians, Messrs. Foreman and Fannan, and they do not fail to live up to their reputation, so that their business causes laughter of the most boisterous kind.

Of the ladies, Miss Mabel Funston as Colin takes first place, and deservedly too. Her dashing appearance, acting, and singing will have their effect on the Hammersmith boys. Miss Funston's songs, "All the boys in khaki get the nice girls," "I want some loving," "Till the boys come home," are rendered in pleasing style. The Lady Rosabelle is charmingly played by Miss Flora Ash, whose splendid voice is heard to great advantage in the songs allotted to her, "Love, here in my heart," "Where my caravan has rested," and sundry duets, which are rapturously encored. As very smart Squire Chivy is Miss Sybil Westmacott, who, with Miss Claire Barrington as Phyllis, the Head Barmaid, give some spirited acting, and sing "Some sort of girl" in excellent style. The two Babes, Jasper and Margery, are Miss Rene Mowbary and Miss Vera Wilkinson, who act with much precocity and naturalness. Two other dear little children, Miss Irene Steele and Miss Nellie Daniels, as Archibald and Evelyn, are highly commendable. The Six Merry Macs, and Mme. Victor's Eight Real Juveniles execute a number of very pretty dances, and the chorus is an engaging one. The music is composed and arranged by Mr. Chas. H. Peters, and the orchestra is ably directed by Mr. Philip Williams. Many words of praise are due to the producer, Mr. Charles Raymond, for the magnificent stage pictures.

IT'S TEN TO ONE



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THEATRICAL GOSSIP

All roads led to theatreland on Boxing Day, and the Strand was as crowded as on any business day. Every house where there was any sort of attraction reaped a good harvest, and the queues outside the places of amusement must have attained record length. There was scarcely a place of entertainment that did not give both afternoon and evening performances, yet there was no lack of patronage, and "House Full" boards were the rule. Such a condition of things after nearly seventeen months of world war is surely undeniable justification for the theatre's existence.

The commendable custom of devoting part of the proceeds of charity entertainments to the actors' own funds has been followed in the case of the matinée given at His Majesty's Theatre on Nov. 19 in aid of the Australian wounded soldiers. The net profit amounted to £2,344 5s., and in recognition of the services of the artistes who took part, the Australian War Contingent Association has voted 25 guineas to the Actors' Benevolent Fund.

Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., the managing director of the New Theatre, Cambridge, has sent to the Actors' Benevolent Fund a cheque for £10, being the sum contributed to the fund by the sisters and nurses of the First Eastern General Hospital, in kind appreciation of the free seats to the theatre given to them and to parties of wounded soldiers by Mr. Redfern. The secretary has gratefully acknowledged this generous gift.

As a result of the chill which she contracted over a week ago, Miss Lily Elsie has been ordered complete rest, and will not, to Sir Herbert Tree's great regret, be able for the present to continue her charming performance in "Mavourneen." A golden opportunity is thus given to Miss Violet Graham, who has already played the high-spirited Lady Patricia at His Majesty's with success in Miss Elsie's enforced absence, and will now continue in the part until further notice.

Hearty congratulations will be offered to Mr. Cyril Maude, who is now bearing aloft the banner of English comedy in America, on the engagement of his younger daughter, Miss Pamela Cynthia Maude, to Captain William La Touche Congreve, of the Rifle Brigade. Captain Congreve is the eldest son of Lieutenant-General Walter Norris Congreve, V.C., who was promoted Major-General for distinguished service in the field on February 15 last, and has just been gazetted to his present rank. He won his V.C. during the Boer War.

The family of the bridegroom-elect is related by marriage to many aristocratic houses. Lady Irene Congreve is a daughter of the eighth Earl of Bessborough, and wife of Mr. John Congreve, of Mount Congreve, Co. Waterford (a descendant of the Barons Clonbrock).

Mr. Edmund Waller (the late Mr. Lewis Waller's son) was lately fighting in the Naval Division at the Dardanelles. He has now been invalided home as being too weak for further active service, for some time to come any way. Now we learn this clever young actor-warrior is eager to return to the stage, either to act or to produce—or both.

Mr. Andre Charlot informs us that he has engaged Mr. W. M. Thorburn to succeed Mr. Joseph Wilson as acting manager at the Playhouse. Also that a second edition of "Samples," with many new features, may be expected there soon.

Although Mr. Max Pemberton has not been heard of just lately in play or revue work, he has just written a farcical comedy in collaboration with Mr. Jocelyn Brandon, L.C.C., who does not seem to have had any play produced since "The Chaperon," which he wrote with Mr. Frederic Arthur Stanley. "The Chaperon" has been very successful in America ever since its first London production by the late Mr. Louis Meyer.

The late Mr. Meyer's former business manager, namely, Mr. Bernard Hishin, is arranging for the London production of a new play just successfully presented in the provinces by Mr. Charles Windermere. It is by Mr. Harold Ashton, and is called "How Jerry Got Off!"

That prolific and popular playwright, Mr. Arthur Shirley, in sending a highly appreciative letter concerning Mr. H. Chance Newton's article on "Some Old Time Celebrities," in last week's "Era," seems to doubt the statement in that article that the late Sir Henry Irving, when acting and stage managing as "Mr. H. Irving," at the Queen's Theatre, Long Acre, received only £3 10s. per week. Mr. Shirley states that he feels sure that Irving must have had quite £10 per week at that time.

Mr. Shirley does not speak by the card in this matter. Mr. Chance Newton assures us that *he* did. He adds, furthermore, that he has in his possession the salary list of the Queen's Theatre at that period. Besides this "H. C. N." was connected with that theatre as a youth when Irving was playing at that time there in "Dearer than Life," "The Lancashire Lass," "Not Guilty," &c.

The writer of the article referred to by Mr. Shirley adds an interesting reminiscence concerning Irving in the last-named play. For once Irving was acting a kind of "hero"—a young soldier—and the little work he had to do in the part was supplemented by a somewhat difficult task which he found it necessary to perform nightly at the wings—and quite "out of" pure kindness—as the cockney buttered his horse's hay. The chief character in "Not Guilty" was played by a certain renowned "character actor" long since dead, and not named herein because of his brilliant descendants. This fine actor had a dual rôle, namely, a villain and a good fellow full of breezy bonhommie.

That actor, during that run especially, had a habit of looking too much upon the wine when it was red, and the whiskey when it was yellow, and mostly used to "lose count" as to which character he had to represent in this play. Irving, soon noting this, and being deeply grieved at this one fault of the otherwise fine fellow, took to waiting at the wing and helping him to make the necessary "quick change" in clothes and make-up; and in addition to this, Irving each time pulled his friend together, and, giving him his next "words," exclaimed: "Now, my dear boy, be careful. Now you're the good chap!" or "Don't forget, old chap, *now* you're the d——d scoundrel!"

The writer of the aforesaid article adds that he feels sure that it was not till Irving was at the Vaudeville, making his great hit as Digby Grant in "Two Roses," that he got £10 per week!

The first actor to win the Victoria Cross is, we believe, Temporary Lieut. Wilbur Dartnell. The gallant officer was born in Australia, and was formerly in several theatrical and variety companies, including those of Mr. Bland Holt and Mr. Dan Barry. He served with distinction in the South African and Matabele campaigns. When the present war broke out he joined the 25th Batt. Frontiersmen Fusiliers, and went last February to East Africa, where he fell gloriously on the field of honour.

How Lieutenant Dartnell gained his V.C. is thus described in the "London Gazette":—Near Maktau (East Africa) on Sept. 3, during a mounted infantry engagement, the enemy got within a few yards of our men, and it was found impossible to get the more severely wounded away. Lieutenant Dartnell, who was himself being carried away wounded in the leg, seeing the situation, and knowing that the enemy's black troops murdered the wounded, insisted on being left behind in the hope of being able to save the lives of the other wounded men. He gave his own life in the gallant attempt to save others.

Best wishes for 1916 are sent by our Brussels correspondent, M. Maurice Hérbert, who now resides at 32, Avenue Opèra, Paris. He is waiting to go back to the Belgian capital, and, though the exact date of his return cannot be given, we know from King George's Christmas message that the goal of victory draws nearer.

Mr. Percy Hutchison has been having a strenuous time lately. Besides playing twice daily at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, he has been rehearsing each morning, in the intervals of his performances, three companies—"Stop Thief," which opened at Bedford on Monday, "Sealed Orders," which opened at Swansea, and "Brewster's Millions," which opened at Eastbourne.

The Christmas festivities commenced at the Actors' Orphanage on Tuesday last week with an entertainment kindly given by Mr. Douglas Beaufort. Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Miss Marie Löhr, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Butt and Mr. Edmund Gwenn made generous gifts to all the children in residence during the Christmas vacation, and special features for their entertainment were arranged by Mr. Anslow J. Austin and the Matron, Miss D. Craft.

Even cablegrams may, it seems, teem with unconscious humour. Here is a case in point. A wire received from Chicago a few days ago states that Sir Herbert Tree "experienced a real welcome" in that city. The wire immediately adds: "Pickpockets relieved him of a sum of five hundred dollars."

"Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love. But why did you kick me downstairs?" murmured a poet on a certain interesting occasion. Similarly Sir Herbert might say: "I rejoice that Chicago should welcome me thus. But why charge this £100 fee?"

Sir Edward Elgar will conduct his own music at the first performance of "The Starlight Express," the fantasy by Mr. Algernon Blackwood and Miss Violet Pearn, due this afternoon at the Kingsway. At subsequent performances the orchestra will be under the direction of Mr. Julius Harrison. The key to the piece is supplied in the following summary of one of the scenes: "Starlight falls upon earth in finest golden rain that clings to everyone. It sows sweetness in the heart—the shining dust of insight, love and sympathy. It falls in the daytime, too, only the blaze of the interfering sun renders it then invisible."

"Tina" made her first bow in the provinces at Glasgow, and was acknowledged most elegant, graceful, and successful. Miss Dorothy Waring, Mr. George Gregory, Miss Madge White, Miss Maria Minetti, Billy Stephens, Vernon Davidson, Edward Rigby, Garnet Wilson, Hylda Lewis form the principal members of the cast. A twenty weeks' tour in the chief towns will follow the four weeks' engagement at Glasgow.

The death occurred on Christmas Day of Miss Clara Thorne, a member of the famous theatrical family of that name. Miss Thorne, who was in her sixty-fourth year, retired from the stage some years ago.

The "Daily Mirror" has discovered that the marriage took place some eight weeks ago of Miss Evie Carew, formerly one of the chorus ladies in "Betty," to the Hon. Rowland George Winn, eldest son of Lord St. Oswald. The couple were married by special licence at St. Saviour's Church, Paddington, on Oct. 29. The bridegroom is a Lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards, and only came of age last year. He went to the front almost at the beginning of the war, and has more than once been severely wounded. The bride first joined the chorus at Daly's while "The Count of Luxembourg" was being played, and then appeared in the various musical plays which succeeded that—"Gipsy Love," "The Marriage Market," "The Country Girl," and, finally, "Betty."

The Lent term of the Trinity College of Music begins on January 17. Students' concerts will be given fortnightly from Monday, Jan. 24. On Tuesday, Feb. 1, the first of the Lent term course of musical history lectures, to meet the requirements of the University of London, will be delivered by Dr. C. W. Pearce at 3.30 p.m. The subject is "Monteverde and His Contemporaries, 1600-1650."

As a result of the recent competition the following awards have been made, the scholarship or exhibition in each case being awarded for one year, with possible renewal for a further period. Scholarships.—Frances Elizabeth Hall, singing; Ivy Maud Jermy, violin; Rene Flora Gordon-Reid, elocution; Catherine Ellen O'Brien, pianoforte; Caroline Bessie Rawlins, violin; Anne Winifred Williams, pianoforte. Exhibition.—Dorothy Mary Madelon Austen, singing. Julius Rosenthal, Eva Morgan, Ethel Snape and Harry Isaacs were commended.

At the conclusion of the Christmas term of the Royal College of Music the following awards were made:—Council Exhibitions (each of the value of £10): Evelyn M. I. Dickson (singing), Wilfrid J. Hare (organ), Melpoménè Scaramanga (violin), W. George Whitaker (composition), Thomas Whitley (hautboy). The Dove Prize (£13) was allotted to Kathleen I. Long (Pringle Scholar); the Leo Stern Memorial Gift for 'Cellists (£5 5s.) to Harold Muslin (Scholar); the Lesley Alexander Gift (£21) between Dorothy D. Choules (Scholar) and Edith M. Lake (Scholar); the Manns Memorial Gift (£4 4s. 1d.) to Dora Garland (Wilson Scholar); the Director's History Prize to Herbert N. Howells (Bruce Scholar); the Edmund Grove Exhibition (£20) to Doris Houghton, A.R.C.M. (Charlotte Holmes Exhibitioner); and the Lilian Eldée Scholarship for Female Singers to Beatrice Betts (Exhibitioner).

Brilliant success characterised the opening of the Christmas season at Mr. W. W. Kelly's three Merseyside theatres. Neither at the afternoon performances, nor at night, was there a vacant seat. Indeed, hundreds of people were unable to obtain admission at the Liverpool Shakespeare, at Kelly's, and at the New Royal, Birkenhead.

A special meeting of the Theatres and Entertainments Committee of the Liverpool justices, on Wednesday last, by a large majority, granted permission to Mr. W. W. Kelly to give charity concerts at the local Shakespeare Theatre on Jan. 9 and nine successive Sundays. In the course of the hearing it was stated that Mr. Kelly was chairman of the Liverpool Theatrical Gala Fund, the committee of which had during the past twelve months distributed over £10,000 in charities. Mr. Kelly would give the theatre as well as his time and money, free, and the entire gross profits of these evenings would be allocated to various war funds. Only two of the regular staff would be employed, practically all the work being performed by a large committee.

The application was granted subject to the condition that the items at each concert were really sacred. The magistrates recognised and appreciated Mr. Kelly's generosity in the matter, but the application was granted only because of the exceptional circumstances existing at the present time, and because funds were wanted for war purposes.

Messrs. King and Parry have decided to extend the repertory movement, which they have successfully carried on at the Grand Theatre, Plymouth. For over two years they have carefully watched and compared notes of the success obtained by travelling companies touring one piece only with that obtained by a permanent stock company, and in their opinion the evidence is overwhelming in favour of the latter system. The Grand Theatre has been devoted to "heavy" drama, and it has now been decided to acquire the old Mechanics' Institute, now known as the Princess Hall, for the production of standard comedy. The stage has been enlarged, and various other improvements have been effected.

The late Mr. Herbert Fuller's effective domestic drama, "Motherless," has been acquired by Mr. Claude Allingham, who is about to take it out on a lengthy tour, with himself as lead. New scenery and effects will be furnished. The play has been revised and strengthened and gives every indication of proving a winner.

An optimistic view of the future of drama is taken by Mr. Allingham, who is of opinion that the public taste for that form of entertainment is keener than ever. "If you have the right article and present it in the right way," he says, "you have nothing to fear. It is sometimes said that the moving pictures will kill the legitimate drama. I do not believe it for a moment. To my mind the 'movies' are simply turning out new patrons for us. Young people go to the pictures, and so get a taste for drama. It is not long before they feel they want the real thing, and it is for us to see they get it at the theatre."

The Theatre Royal, Bath, was kindly lent by Mr. Arthur Carlton for a concert for the troops stationed in the city on Christmas Day. The entertainment was supplied by the Humouresques, the members of "The Idol of Kano" company, and members of the "Aladdin" pantomime company. In the course of the evening the Mayor expressed the thanks of all present to Mr. Carlton for so generously placing the theatre at his disposal, to the artistes who had supplied the programme, and to the theatre staff.

Touring managers who have visited Sheffield have frequently met Mr. William Frost, Chief of the local City Fire Brigade. On the advice of his doctors he is to take a voyage to Australia and back, for the benefit of his health. The opportunity of showing how much he is esteemed has been taken advantage of by his two valued friends, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont (manager of the Lyceum and the Royal) and Mr. C. W. Ramsay (late manager of the defunct Alexandra, now of the palatial Oxford), who are organising a testimonial.

A welcome surprise was given to Mr. and Mrs. Lodge-Percy (Miss Henrietta Schrier), authors of "Tipperary," &c., on Christmas Eve, when a very beautiful illuminated address, accompanied by a handsome silver tea and coffee set and rose bowl, was presented to them by Mr. Walter Clarke, manager of the "Tipperary" (B) company, on behalf of Mr. Bert Feldman (Chief Tipperary, &c.) and the entire members of "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" A and B companies, and those of "Mary From Tipperary," "The Blind Girl's Rosary," and "When the Angelus is Ringing." Mr. Lodge-Percy and Miss Schrier express the keenest satisfaction at the splendid and loyal manner in which each member of the various companies has worked to make their plays so successful during the past year.

The delightful children's classic "Peter Pan" has changed its venue this year, and was presented at the New Theatre on Boxing Day to a large crowd of happy children and their elders. The production was marred, unfortunately, by many hitches, and at the last moment the Lagoon scene had to be cut out. In these circumstances we think we should do greater justice to the clever cast by postponing our notice until next week.

We regret to announce the death on Monday of the baby son of Mr. George Emm Melville. The little fellow had reached the age of 1 year 11½ months. We sincerely sympathise with the bereaved parents in their sad loss.

Mr. Herbert Chenery, general manager of the Duke of York's Theatre, informs us that Miss Horniman has not acquired the lease of that theatre for two years as has been stated in the Press, but not in these columns. Miss Horniman's company is appearing there for a short season in Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors" and "The Blue Stockings," adapted from Molière. Every afternoon Messrs. Stedman present "Alice in Wonderland."

With reference to the report that Miss Horniman had taken over the lease of the Duke of Yorks Theatre, she has written as follows to Mr. W. Roberts Marshall, general manager of the Gaiety, Manchester, of which Miss Horniman is proprietress:—"I told the interviewer that we were arranging for a season at the Duke of York's Theatre whilst "Alice" ran at the Gaiety; that the plays I mentioned to him were under consideration, but that no one could tell which, or when, any of them would be performed. I was decided in my statement that I have said for years, and still say, that 'I want to get my claws' into London, and that when I do so, the theatre will be run as a London branch of the Gaiety, Manchester, my reason being that we have a paint-room and other convenient machinery there. I was thinking as I spoke of what I really want: a 'civilised' theatre built according to my own ideas, not any such as are now to be found in London."

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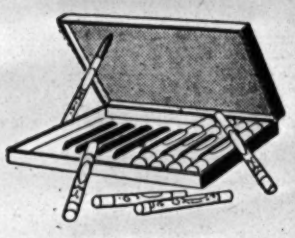

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"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK" AT BIRMINGHAM.

There is always a genuine endeavour by the controller of the Birmingham Alexandra to go one better than previous years, and Mr. Leon Salberg has spared neither care nor expense in preparation for "Jack and the Beanstalk." Mr. Herbert Barnes, the musical director and producer, has a long list of successes to his name, and he has fully maintained his reputation. There has been a lavish expenditure on scenery and dresses, and on the opening night there was scarcely a hitch. Miss Josie Delaine is an ideal Jack, infusing spirit and enthusiasm into her work, and she has a personality that soon wins the hearts of her audience. She will be a big favourite here. Miss Betty Green is very sweet and dainty as the Princess, and the Misses Dollie and Rosie De Mayo, always beautifully dressed, work hard, and are an unqualified success. Tom Nelson leads in the comedy element, and he will prove one of the chief successes. Hylton Ward and Leo Trainor are solid comedians, who have important parts, and they are in the right environment. A more picturesque Giant than Richard F. Symons could not be imagined, and France and Francis are useful comedians. The book is by William De-Lacy and Martin Blam.

In the Village of Daisy Bell Dollie and Rosie Mayo display talent and ability in an effective duet, "You're a great big wonderful baby," followed by a clever dance. Miss Betty Green, looking sweet and dainty, has a song, "Prudence Prue," which suits her admirably, and an effective and artistic dance is executed by the Lottie Stone Troupe—a prettier company of dancers never stepped the boards. Miss Josie Delaine wins the hearts of her audience with "Everybody loves our baby," and she merited the warm reception accorded her. Miss Delaine and Mr. Tom Nelson afterwards, with the assistance of the Cow (France and Francis), give a burlesque of a circus, which is extremely funny. Mr. Leo Trainor has a good parody of popular songs. In the next scene Mr. Hylton Ward has a tongue-twisting chorus song, "Patty pink print petticoats," which will be popular. "The Fox-Trot Ball" is admirably rendered by the Prince and Dorothy, who also dance artistically, and the Dame reminds us of the value of the cow in an original song "Poor old cow." A strong feature of this act is the tamboureen and skipping-rope dances by the Lestella Gadsby's Troupe of really clever juveniles.

In Dame Durden's Back Garden the King and the old lady create roars of laughter with their duet, "Sprinkle me with kisses," and Jack scores with an excellent chorus song, "You were the first one to teach me to love." Miss Emmelyn Walter, who makes an unqualified success as Silverstar, sings beautifully "Show me the way to your heart." The denouement to the first half of the pantomime provides a beautiful spectacle in the Conservatory, where gaily-dressed ballet ladies look charming, and the colour scheme is a picture to bewilder one. We catch a glimpse of Castles in the Air, and in these surroundings Mr. Rube Walman (Will the Whistler) proves himself an expert sifflеur, and Bovril earns well deserved applause for his rendering of "A little bit of Heaven."

The Aerial Liner in Cloudland is a fine example of stagecraft, showing the bridge of a vessel, with sleeping compartments and a shop, which provided ample scope for comedy business. At the Ramparts of the Giant's Castle the comedians join in a lively trio, "I don't think it matters, do you?" and Miss Walter, Silverstar, sweetly renders "Garden of roses." A decided novelty, arranged and invented by Miss Rose Tyrrell, is introduced by Little Cissy Varley, an exceptionally clever girl, who portrays the character from Johnny Walker Whisky in a realistic manner. Here Miss Green sings "Little box of soldiers," and Miss Delaine scores another success with "What you never had you never miss." The grand finale is the Armourial Hall, where gallants clad in armour and daintily dressed ladies form an enchanting scene.

"SINBAD THE SAILOR" AT BRIGHTON.

The first pantomime to open at Brighton this Christmas was "Sinbad the Sailor," presented by Mr. Milton Bode at the Theatre Royal last Friday evening to a good house. The entire production is bright, witty, and up to date, while the scenery and effects are in parts positively gorgeous, especially the transformation scene. Mr. George Rowlands has written the work in a very entertaining way, while the music rendered by the orchestra under the direction of Mr. Alexander Humphreys, and composed of arranged by that gentleman and Mr. Knight Pearce, is all that can be desired.

The producer has certainly scored an initial success by engaging the services of Miss Nelly Wigley, who is sweet and charming as Sinbad; her rendering of Scotch and Irish songs is much appreciated, and proclaims her as an actress of merit. Miss Renee Reel is very dainty as Zobedie, and her dance with Mr. Felix Demery is immense; she sings a coon song of love, which is likely to become popular, as is also "Everybody's crazy on the fox-trot." Miss Kitty Mac scores well in her act with Mr. Barry Mills. The part of Liz-Oh, an Eastern parlourmaid, is admirably taken by Miss Irene Rose, who assumes in a natural way an East End twang and style.

The Messrs. Tom E. Sinclair, Barry Mills, and Bert Maddison, as Mrs. Sinbad, Tinbad and Hinbad respectively, provide abundance of fun, keeping everyone laughing by their funny mannerisms, songs and patter. They are well supported by Messrs. Frank and Bill Bass, who, as Sailors, do very well and provoke much mirth. The Old Man of the Sea is a weird and uncanny figure in rags and tatters; the part is ably taken by Mr. Morris Harper. Besides the songs already mentioned, there is a very topical parody on Red Wing; a song, "Take it easy, Army," by Hinbad; and yet another, "Why take the wife down there?" by Prince Abdullah (Mr. A. C. Rose)—which should prove prime favourites.

Miss Madge Martin's London troupe of twenty-four speciality dancers provide an additional attraction, while the principal member, Miss Eileen Dennes, shows distinct evidence of being a really clever exponent of the terpsichorean art in her rendering of the mysterious poison dance.

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MISS CRESSIE LEONARD

ROBIN HOOD,

IN

Mr. J. Bannister Howard's Highly Successful Pantomime,

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD,"

ALDWYCH THEATRE, W.C.

Some Press Notices.

THE MORNING POST.

ALDWYCH THEATRE.

"There would appear to be little doubt as to the pantomime song of the year. It is 'Keep the Home Fires Burning.' At the Aldwych Theatre it is sung by Miss Cressie Leonard as Robin Hood, who has for years back figured as the hero of 'The Babes in the Wood,' and yesterday afternoon a crowded audience sang the chorus almost as they might have sung a hymn. For the rest, Miss Leonard's Robin may best be described in the words of the boy 'babe,' Norman. He says: 'He looks ripping.' And certainly Miss Leonard, tall, lissom, and active, is a great improvement on the protuberant principal boy not yet entirely superseded. She speaks well, sings well, moves well, and, whether in Lincoln green or khaki, is as attractive a pantomime hero as one can recall."

—

OBSERVER.

"There were fine, brave people, like Miss Cressie Leonard as Robin Hood, especially when he wore khaki and sung a charming song about keeping the home fires alight for the boys that are away. The cast is, indeed, a capital one. Several members give it distinction. Miss Cressie Leonard, for instance, is very different, in her stylish refinement, from the usual run of 'principal boy.'"

—

REYNOLDS'S.

"There is every promise of 'The Babes in the Wood' being a huge success. Mr. J. Bannister Howard had assembled an excellent company of artistes, including Miss Cressie Leonard as Robin Hood."

MISS CRESSIE LEONARD.

Some Press Notices.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

"Miss Cressie Leonard, as Robin Hood, and Miss Edith Drayson, as Maid Marian, make the most winsome of lovers, singing, acting, and dancing charmingly. But the cast is altogether of the best. Miss Leonard, by the way, dressed in khaki, gives a spirited account of 'Keep the Home Fires Burning.'"

—

THE DAILY NEWS.

"The leading boy, Miss Cressie Leonard, sings well, and has a curious distinction of manner and bearing."

—

THE STANDARD.

"The period of the story is Robin Hood's day, and the daughter ontlaw is a picturesque impersonation by Miss Cressie Leonard.'"

—

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

"From the beginning Miss Cressie Leonard, as Robin Hood, and Miss Edith Drayson, Maid Marian, strike a successful note, and their partnership is in the true pantomime spirit."

STAR SONGS AND SINGERS.

The pantomime success of the Star Co.'s premier ballad, "Show me the way to your heart," is little short of marvellous. Amongst the many fore-front favourites who are specially featuring this famous number may be mentioned the following:—Mesdames Eileen Desmond (T.R., Leeds), Ivey Latimer (Court, Liverpool), Violet Romaine (Gaiety, Dublin), Winifred Roma (T.R., Glasgow); Dorothy Moulton (Prince's, Bristol); Doris Thomas (T.R., Birmingham), Myra Hammon (Grand, Brighton), Marie Braymen (Tyne, Newcastle), Louie Beckman (T.R., Manchester), Jessie Gerrard (Empire, Newcastle), Edith Drayson (Aldwych), Dorothy Craske (Kennington), Mary Wynne Hulm (Kilburn), Maude Esmond (Tottenham), and many others.

It is a risky thing to prophesy any song being an "eleventh hour sensation," but the Star Co. has more than justified the assertion that "You were the first one to teach me to love" would loom large in pantomime. In practically all of this season's important productions this number prominently figures, and to quote only a few of the famous pantomime favourites featuring this song the following may be mentioned:—Mesdames Daisy Dormer (Prince's, Bristol), Daisy West-Collins (Tyne, Newcastle), Haidee de Rance (T.R., Edinburgh), Clara Beck (O.H., Belfast); Ouida Macdermott (Gaiety, Dublin), Winifred Delevanti (T.R., Birmingham), Gladys Guy (Grand, Leeds), Alice Russon (T.R., Manchester), Mabel Osborne (King's, Sunderland), Lily Vine (Princess's, Glasgow), Florrie Elliston (King's, Edinburgh), May Poulton (Rotunda, Liverpool), Cressie Leonard (Aldwych), Dorothy Millar (Borough, Stratford, &c., &c.

Miss Victoria Carmen (of Griffiths and Carmen), principal boy with Harry Burns' pantomime at the Empire, Newcastle, is singing no less than four of the Star Co.'s songs, all of which are specially featured, viz., "You were the first one to teach me to love," "Any more for the boat train?" "That dreamy lullaby," and "When Sandy McKie comes back to Inverary," and in the last-mentioned number has the assistance of forty girls, all dressed in kilts. Miss Carmen is wonderfully successful in all these fine numbers.

Both London and provincial pantomimes seem to have conspired to make the Star Co.'s songs the "bright particular" gems of their productions. The Aldwych, par exemple, gives us Miss Cressie Leonard, in "You were the first one to teach me to love"; Miss Edith Drayson, in "Show me the way to your heart"; Miss Eileen Dagmar, in "Get that girl"; and Miss Cressie Leonard and Mr. Johnnie Schofield, jun., in "The crocodile crawl," all tremendous hits and—all Star songs. All over London the tale is the same.

"ALADDIN" AT THE ROYAL, HANLEY.

This season Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone, managing director of the Royal, Hanley, has arranged with Mr. Leon Salberg for the production of "Aladdin," which last season was such a success at the Alexandra, Birmingham. Miss Mona Magnet is Aladdin, and plays the part really well, her singing and dancing being greatly enjoyed. Miss Dot Fra is principal girl, and speedily becomes a favourite. Mr. Sid Dean's Widow Twankey is a very humorous impersonation. Messrs. Allen and Norman are responsible for many laughs. Mr. Charles K. Hennessey (Abanazar) is a great success. Miss Katie Barnes, the Geni of the Ring, has a voice of much sweetness, and wins well-deserved plaudits for her vocalism. Miss Dorothy Seacombe as Pekee is smart and clever. Miss Georgina Vokes (Saucee), Mr. Frank Probin (Emperor), Mr. Erne Turner, and Mr. Eric Stone each play their parts excellently. The Lottie Stone troupe of dancers are responsible for several cleverly-executed numbers. The chorus is well selected, and the scenery is beautiful. Mr. Robert Kayes is responsible for the production.

BENEFICENT ORDER OF TERRIERS.

Applications for membership have been received from Walter O'Brien and Alan Martin (second notice), Edgar Driver, Tom Goode, and Louis Victor (third notice), and Sid Kearns (final notice).

The election of officers for January, 1916, resulted as follows:—W.T., Terrier Fred Day; V.T., Terrier George Gee; and Organist, Terrier Arthur Were.

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THE DRAMATIC YEAR.

By MABEL KOOPMAN.

(Continued from last week.)

"The Dummy," by Harvey J. O'Higgins and Harriet Ford, was quite a good American crook play; so was "The Argyle Case," by the same authors, and it is surprising considering the zest with which "crook" plays from America have been welcomed by the public this year, that neither "caught on." The reason may have been that neither Mr. Fred Terry (in the latter) nor Mr. Ambrose Manning (in the former) were rightly cast for the "human sleuth hound" type. In spite of excellent acting, neither could disguise his genial personality. I think had Mr. Guy Standing been able to play the detective the result would have been very different.

"Marie-Odile" and "Iris Intervenes," were both women's plays. The first, of which I have already spoken, required the verse of a Stephen Phillips to create the right atmosphere. "Iris Intervenes" was a clever study of feminine temperament. It was the work of a very promising beginner, was full of faults, but had freshness and originality.

The most successful of the American "crook-criminal" dramas have been Elmer Reizenstein's "On Trial" and W. Mack's "Kick-In." Exciting incidents, plausible working, excellent acting, good staging, nothing was lacking to ensure well-deserved success.

A good rousing play, "Gamblers All," by Mrs. Martindale, provided two very popular actors, Mr. Lewis Waller and Mr. Gerald du Maurier, with parts which they played admirably. Mrs. Martindale's first play was, alas, her last, for she died within a few months of its production. It is also memorable as being the last play in which Lewis Waller was seen in London, or, in fact, anywhere. Two vivid impressions of Waller this year will always remain with me. One at the Command Performance of Henry VIII., July 5, in which he made a magnificent Buckingham. I can see him now, in his final scene at the River Gate, "a man unjustly condemned, one who found death bitter, although his noble soul could face it with fortitude," as I wrote at the time. It was at the Red Cross matinée held at His Majesty's on July 5 that Lewis Waller made his last appearance in London. He never recited the war speeches from "Henry V.," or Kipling's "Ballad of the Clampherdown" better. I have heard him do both many times, but it brought the tears to my eyes always.

"The Ware Case," by Mr. George Pleydell (Mr. George Bancroft), which followed "Gamblers All" at Wyndham's, deserves the success it has attained. It may be classed with the "criminal plays," which, with revues, have reached the top notch of popularity this year.

Revues have been many and wonderful. They range from the spectacular to the intimate. The first are chiefly of the music halls, and these do not lie within my province. The intimate are the Harry Grattan type, "Odds and Ends," "More," and "Samples." They bring the audience into direct touch with the personalities of the revue players. This, among many, is one of the instances where Grattan scores as a revue writer. He makes, or pretends to make, the audience on the same terms of familiarity with the favourites of the footlights that was formerly accomplished by the now practically exploded interview, in which we used, through the art of the interviewer, to meet the great ones of the stage in their own homes or dressing-rooms, see them surrounded by their family or their mascots, hear their views of their parts or their politics, and leave them invariably lapped in an atmosphere of luxury and adulation. The "suggestive" revue, of the "Y'a de Jolies Femmes" type, has not been a success at the West-End houses. Messrs. Albert de Courville and Wal Pink's "Shell Out" has been doing good business at the Comedy since the end of August. It cannot be classified, it has quite a distinctive character of its own, that has evidently caught the public taste. It was at its production that smoking was first permitted in the auditorium at the Comedy Theatre, an example that has since been followed at the Playhouse.

The musical comedies of 1915, "Betty," by Paul Rubens and Adrian Ross, "To-night's the Night," by Paul Rubens and Percy Greenbank, "The Only Girl," by Victor Herbert and Herbert Blossom, and "Tina," by Paul Rubens and Harry Graham, have all well fulfilled their mission in life, which is to divert, to amuse, to attract, and are reaping their just reward. Neither Sir J. M. Barrie or the late Mr. Stephen Phillips have left any permanent mark on the drama in 1915, though the former's "Rosy Rapture" and the latter's "Armageddon" were eagerly anticipated. Both were disappointments.

(To be continued.)

"KEEP GOING" AT PALLADIUM, HARTLEPOOL.

This musical comedy was produced on Monday by the Northern Revues Syndicate under the personal supervision of the author, Norman H. Lee. The lyrics are by Norman H. Lee, Fred Patterson, and Bert Lee, music by Fred Patterson, with additional numbers by Bert Feldman, Francis, Day and Hunter, and the Star Publishing Co.

Of plot there is little more than is possessed by the usual revue, but what there is relates to Downie, who is the property man at the Cabaret Theatre, by some mistake or oversight becoming possessed of some bonds belonging to Downey which should have gone to one named Browney. After being pursued through the several scenes, Downey finds himself on an island, the Beauty Spot, noted for being the place where some famous diamonds are. Whilst searching for these he meets with Wanda, the Island King's daughter, who at once falls in love with him. Downey, however, is not to have it exactly all his own way, for Merag, the dark-skinned fiancée of Wanda, appears on the scene—result, jealousy, a fight with knives, and a defunct Merag. Downey is just affianced to the dusky princess and proclaimed ruler of the island, when he wakes up from what has been a somewhat troublesome dream, only to find the theatrical company are the inhabitants for the time being—Wanda being the principal lady, and Merag is Marlow, the owner of the missing bonds.

In the rôle of Downie Mr. Alec Godfrey, with his quaintly humorous mannerisms, is vastly amusing. Miss Cecilé Russell is charmingly artistic as Elaine; her several songs and duets, particularly "Boys in blue," "Way to paradise," and "Show me the way to your heart," are received with great favour. Mr. James Hawkes, as Raynor, is earnest in his portrayal of the part, and is the possessor of a capital baritone voice. Miss Mona Wanda has many characters to represent, and does them well. Others prominent in the piece are Billy Stern, whose song, "The girls in our street," at once became popular; and Lillian Caine, a veritable map of muscularity, in some excellent ball-punching work. The scenery is appropriate and well executed, the dresses pretty and attractive, and the dances and choruses well rendered.

A copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for Twopence Halfpenny.

ON THE ROAD.

Abbott, Ernest.—Dec. 27, T.R., Stratford; Jan. 3, V., Eastleigh.
Aladdin (Egbert).—Dec. 27, Grand, Clapham, S.W.
Aladdin.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Liverpool.
Alias Jimmy Valentine.—Dec. 27, T.R., Limerick; Jan. 3, Pav., Weymouth.
Are You a Mason?—Dec. 27, O.H., Rugby.
Babes in the Wood (Rigby).—Dec. 27, Pal., Watford.
Babes in the Wood (Slaughter).—Dec. 27, H., Richmond.
Babes in the Wood (Little).—Dec. 27, K., Greenock; Jan. 3, K., Greenock.
Baby's Shoe, A.—Dec. 27, Lyceum, Taunton.
Beauty and the Beast.—Dec. 27, Grand, Falkirk.
Betty (South).—Dec. 27, Grand, Southampton; Jan. 3, P.G., Folkestone.
Brave Women—Who Wait.—Dec. 27, T.R., Castleford; Jan. 3, O.H., Burton.
Brewster's Millions.—Dec. 27, Pier, Eastbourne.
Bride of the Battlefield.—Dec. 27, T.R., Macclesfield.
Broken Rosary.—Dec. 27, Pav., Pontnewynydd.
Cassidy, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rice.—Dec. 27, Variety, Eastleigh.
Cinderella.—Dec. 27, Pal., Rugeley.
Cinderella.—Dec. 27, Grand, Nottingham.
Cinderella.—Dec. 27, Palladium, W. (matinées).
Cinderella.—Dec. 27, Lyric, Hammersmith.
Cinderella (Armstrong).—Dec. 27, Emp., Dublin.
Cinderella (Kiddie's).—Dec. 27, Artillery, Woolwich
Cinderella.—Dec. 27, Lyceum, Newport.
Devil's Rosary.—Dec. 27, T.R., Leicester.
Dick Whittington (Egbert).—Dec. 27, H., Lowisham S.E.
Dick Whittington (Jazon).—Dec. 27, Emp., Ashton-under-Lyne.
D'Oyly Carte Opera Co.—Dec. 27, H.M., Dundee; Jan. 3, H.M., Aberdeen.
Eliza Comes to Stay (Seddon).—Dec. 27, T.R., Lincoln; Jan. 3, Peterborough (3), Goole (3).
Empire Opera Co.—Dec. 27, County, Bangor.
Fatal Wedding.—Dec. 27, T.R., Darwen; Jan. 3, Grand, West Hartlepool.
Florodora (No. 1).—Dec. 27, Alex., Hull; Jan. 3, Lyceum, Sheffield.
Forty Thieves (Burns).—Dec. 27, Pal., Tottenham, N.
Gates of Mercy.—Jan. 3, T.R., West Bromwich.
Geisha.—Dec. 27, West Hartlepool.
Girl from Nowhere.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Accrington.
Girl in the Taxi (Red).—Dec. 27, P.O.W., Grimsby; Jan. 3, O.H., Harrogate.
Goody Two Shoes (Gordon).—Jan. 3, Derby.
Goody Two Shoes.—Dec. 27, Emp., Kilburn.
Grumpy (Windermere).—Dec. 27, Town H., Stourbridge; Jan. 3, New, Salisbury.
Harrison Frewin Opera Co.—Dec. 27, O.H., Middlesbrough; Jan. 3, O.H., Middlesbrough.
His Mother's Boy.—Jan. 3, T.R., Leicester.
His Mother's Rosary.—Dec. 27, Arcadia, Spennymoor; Jan. 3, T.R., North Shields.
In the Hands of the Huns.—Jan. 3, Mexborough.
Jack and the Beanstalk (Frederick's).—Dec. 27, Great Malvern (3), Hereford (3); Jan. 3, Leominster (3), Abergavenny (3).
Jack and Jill (Forde).—Dec. 27, Hippo., Leeds.
Jack the Giantkiller.—Dec. 27, T.R., Guildford.
Jenny Omroyd.—Dec. 27, Alh., Stourbridge.
John Raymond's Daughter.—Dec. 27, T.R., Aston.
Kismet.—Dec. 27, T.R., Barnsley; Jan. 3, T.R., Birkenhead.
Lady Slavey, The.—Dec. 27, New, Salisbury.
Little Boy Blue (Howard).—Dec. 27, T.R., Edinburgh.
Little Grey Home in the West (South).—Dec. 27, Eden, Bishop Auckland; Jan. 3, T.R., Darlington.
Little Tommy Tucker.—Dec. 27, Emp., Hackney.
London Actress.—Dec. 27, Pal., Barnoldswick; Jan. 3, Alex., Widnes.
Man Who Stayed at Home (Taylor-Platt).—Jan. 13, O.H., Buxton.
Mary from Tipperary.—Dec. 27, Stockton-on-Tees.
Message from Mars.—Dec. 27, Perth; Jan. 3, T.R., Inverness.
Midsummer Night's Dream.—Dec. 27, Royal Court T., S.W.
Mill Girl's Wedding.—Dec. 27, New, Bargoed.
Miss Hook of Holland.—Dec. 27, P.G., Folkestone.
Miss Lancashire, Limited.—Dec. 27, Grand, Doncaster; Jan. 3, Pal., Newcastle.
Moody-Manners Opera Co.—Dec. 27, Kelly's, Liverpool.
Mother Goose (McKelvie).—Dec. 27, Pav., Glasgow.
Motherless Mite.—Jan. 3, Pal., Rochdale.
Mr. Wu.—Dec. 27, O.H., Coventry.
Neill, Sinclair.—Dec. 27, H., Nottingham; Jan. 3, Pal., Glossop.
Neither Wife nor Maid.—Dec. 27, T.R., Stratford.
Oh! I Say!!—Dec. 27, Royalty, Barrow-in-Furness.
Old Home.—Dec. 27, Emp., Cradley Heath.
O'Mara Opera Co.—Dec. 27, O.H., Burnley.
Only Girl.—Dec. 27, Pal., Manchester.
Pals.—Dec. 27, Grand, Luton.
Peg o' My Heart.—Dec. 27, Royalty, Morecambe (4); Jan. 1, Stirling (4).
Pitman's Daughters.—Dec. 27, Pav., Bridlington; Jan. 3, Emp., Langley Moor.
Potash and Perlmutter (Grossmith).—Dec. 27, Lyceum, Sheffield; Jan. 3, T.R., Bradford.
Prince and the Beggar Maid.—Dec. 27, T.R., Canterbury.
Prodigal Parson.—Dec. 27, King's, Colne; Jan. 3, Pal., Barnoldswick.
Quaker Girl.—Dec. 27, H.M., Carlisle.
Raynor Rep. Co.—Dec. 27, Junc., Manchester.
Red Riding Hood (Calne).—Dec. 27, T.R., Bury.
Red Riding Hood.—Dec. 27, Grand, Croydon.
Red Riding Hood (Howard).—Dec. 27, Pal., East Ham.
Ridding Opera Co.—Dec. 27, Theatre, Inverness; Jan. 3, Emp., Cowdenbeath.
Robinson Crusoe (Dottridge).—Dec. 27, Court, Wigan.
Robinson Crusoe (Egbert).—Dec. 27, T.R., Windsor.
Robinson Crusoe (Tiller).—Dec. 27, Pav., Liverpool.
Robinson Crusoe.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Manchester.
Rosary (Personal).—Dec. 27, T.R., Colchester.
Rosary (No. 1 B).—Dec. 27, T.R., South Shields.
Sealed Orders.—Dec. 27, Grand, Swansea; Jan. 3, Grand, Swansea.
Silver Crucifix.—Dec. 27, Emp., Wakefield; Jan. 3, Grand, Doncaster.
Silver Wedding.—Dec. 27, Gaiety, Birmingham.
Sinbad the Sailor (Cornforth).—Dec. 27, Palladium.
Soggarth Aroon.—Jan. 3, Town Hall, Newry; 10, Emp., Belfast.
Still Alarm.—Dec. 27, County, St. Albans; Jan. 3, Pal., Brierley Hill.
Stop Thief!—Dec. 27, County, Bedford.
Story of the Rosary.—Dec. 27, Vic., Kettering.
Story of the Rosary (South).—Dec. 27, T.R., Aston.
Story of the Rosary (Suburban).—Dec. 27, New, Cambridge; Jan. 3, County, Reading.
Texas Ranger A.—Dec. 27, Pal., Portsmouth.
Three Spoonfuls.—Dec. 27, Garrison, Tidworth.
Tina.—Dec. 27, King's, Glasgow; Jan. 3, King's, Glasgow.
Touch of a Child.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Nottingham.
To-night's the Night.—Dec. 27, T.R., Newcastle; Jan. 3, T.R., Newcastle.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Dec. 27, Pal., Rochdale.
When Creeps in Your Heart.—Dec. 27, Met., Abertillery.
White Girl Slave.—Dec. 27, Emp., Newton Abbot; Jan. 3, Gaiety, Burnley.
Woman Pays Back.—Dec. 27, Tyldesley; Jan. 3, O.H., Crewe.
Woman's Honour.—Dec. 27, Pal., Tow Law.
Woman Who Did Tell.—Dec. 27, T.R., Breck-road, Liverpool; Jan. 3, T.R., Breck-road, Liverpool.
Wonderful Whittington (Welman).—Dec. 27, T.R., Woolwich; Jan. 10, Grand, Gravesend.

REVUES.

All Aboard.—Dec. 27, Grand, Pentre.
All Nonsense!—Dec. 27, Tivoli, Hull.
All Scotch!—Dec. 27, Hippo., Preston.
Away Down South.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Salford.
Beauties.—Dec. 27, Emp., Nottingham; Jan. 3, Emp., Edinburgh.
Business as Usual.—Dec. 27, H., Norwich.
Charlie Chaplin Mad.—Dec. 27, King's, Manchester.
Cheer Up.—Dec. 27, Islington, N.
Come In, Miss.—Dec. 27, Pal., Southport; Jan. 3, Pal., Blackburn.
D. D. D.—Dec. 27, Col., Bury St. Edmunds.
Don't Crush.—Dec. 27, Emp., Wolverhampton.
Don't Tempt Me.—Dec. 27, Emp., Finsbury Park, N.; Jan. 3, Empress, Brixton, S.W.
Dream Girl.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Altrincham.
Ever Been Had?—Dec. 27, Col., Portsmouth.
Excuse Me!—Dec. 27, Emp., Bristol.
Get Away, You Boys!—Dec. 27, Leith.
Good Evening!—Dec. 27, Pal., Hull; Jan. 3, Emp., Sheffield.
Have a Guess.—Dec. 27., Emp., South Shields.
Heave O!—Dec. 27, King's, Dundee; Jan. 3, H., Nottingham.
Higgledy Piggledy.—Dec. 27, Rep., Liverpool.
High Explosives.—Dec. 27, H., Putney, S.W.
Honeymoon Express.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Newcastle.
Hot and Cold.—Dec. 27, Pal., Plymouth.
Hullo! Boscombe.—Jan. 3, H., Boscombe.
Hullo! Everybody.—Dec. 27, H., Balham, S.W.
Hello! Jingle Bell(e)s!—Dec. 27, Emp., Whitby.
Irish, and Proud of It.—Jan. 3, Emp., New Cross, S.E.
It'll Tickle.—
It's Good!—Dec. 27, Stratford-on-Avon.
It's Warm.—Dec. 27, Playhouse, Oswestry.
Jack Horner.—Dec. 27, Marlborough, N.
Keep to the Right.—Dec. 27, Col., Dublin.
Keep Going.—Dec. 27, Grand, Radcliffe.
Ladies First.—Dec. 27, H., Boscombe.
Lancashire, and Proud of It.—Dec. 27, Alex., Widnes; Jan. 3, H., Salford.
Le Petit Cabaret.—Dec. 27, Lyceum, Govan.
Lights Out, London!—Dec. 27, Hippo., Willesden, N.W.
Limelight.—Dec. 27, H., Eastbourne.
Look Out!—Dec. 27, Emp., Sunderland; Jan. 3, Hippo., Putney, S.W.
Love Birds.—Dec. 27, Emp., Preston; Jan. 3, Emp., Chatham.
Made in England.—Dec. 27, South London; Jan. 3, W.G., New Brighton.
Merry and Bright.—Jan. 10, W.G., New Brighton.
Merry Moments.—Dec. 27, H., Sheffield; Jan. 3, Hippo., Willesden, N.W.
Million Dollar Girl.—Dec. 27, Empress, Brixton.
Mind the Step!—Dec. 27, Hippo., Derby.
S.W.
Mind Your Eye!—Dec. 27, Miners', Ashington.
Mustard and Cress.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Poplar.
Odds On!—Dec. 27, Oxford, W.
Other Department, The.—Dec. 27, Emp., New Cross, S.E.
Passing Events.—Dec. 27, W.G., New Brighton; Jan. 3, Pal., Camberwell.
Passing Show.—Dec. 27, Alh., Glasgow.
Percy Honri's "1915-16" Revue.—Dec. 27, Emp., Edinburgh;
Pillar to Post.—Dec. 27 Pav., Rhyl.
Push and Go.—Dec. 27, Emp., Croydon.
Radium Girl.—Dec. 27, H., Southampton.
Red Heads (No. 1).—Dec. 27, Emp., Sheffield; Jan. 3, Emp., Leeds.
Runaway Jap, The.—Dec. 27, Emp., Belfast.
Search Me.—Dec. 27, Palladium, Southport.
She's a Daisy!—Dec. 27, New, Middlesex, W.C.
Sheba.—Jan. 3, Alh., Stourbridge.
Shell Out!—Dec. 27, Emp., Leeds.
Sign, Please.—Dec. 27, Emp., Kingston.
Smile, Please.—Dec. 27, Grand, Manchester.
S'nice.—Dec. 27, H., Rotherhithe; Jan. 3, H., Balham, S.W.
Splash Me.—Dec. 27, Revue, Kingston.
Step Forward!—Dec. 27, Emp., Camberwell.
Stop, Look, Listen!—Dec. 27, Pal., Chelsea, S.W.
This is the Life.—Dec. 27, H., Southend; Jan. 3, H., Hulme.
Tit-Bits.—Dec. 27, Emp., West Hartlepool.
Town Topics.—Dec. 27, Emp., Middlesbrough.
Yes, I Think So.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Paisley.
Year in an Hour.—Dec. 27, Hippo., Hulme.
5064 Gerrard.—Dec. 27, H., Manchester; Jan. 3, Hippo., Manchester.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT WINDSOR.

The holiday attraction at the New Theatre Royal, Windsor, is the pantomime "Robinson Crusoe," presented on Monday by Mr. Francis Laidler's company, before two crowded houses. The book is by MaMrtin Byam, the music being composed by Walter G. Powell, and the dances are arranged by Miss Judith Espinosa. There are eleven scenes, all of which are picturesque, and the costumes are handsome and well chosen. There is an abundance of fun and plenty of good songs. Miss Marie Earle proves herself a dashing and melodious Robinson Crusoe, and Miss Olly Moody is a winsome and dainty Polly Primrose, and does full justice to several popular numbers. Miss Alice Hamblin's vocalism as the Fairy comes in for much appreciation. Patty Dimple has a delightful exponent in Miss Patty Yole, and Miss Betty Renee is good as Coral. Mr. Dave O'Toole as the Dame extracts all the fun possible out of this amusing part. Messrs. Regan and Ryan find plenty of scope for their humour as Captain Stern and Muggins; whilst the bold, bad Buccaneer, Will Atkins, is well undertaken by Mr. George Payne. The dancing of the Espinosa Troupe of Dancers, Icilma Rae, Iris Madeline, and Betty Renee is greatly admired.

OLD-TIME TOPICAL SONGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

In answer to Mr. Walter Smith's letter, the 'Union Jack of old England," one of the greatest patriotic numbers ever written, is published by Chas. Sheards, 196, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W.C.

If the other one Mr. Smith names was published at all it would be by the same firm. They published all—or almost all—of the late Charles Williams' songs.—Yours truly,

F. V. ST. CLAIR.

Holborn Empire, Dec. 23.

"WHAT ADVERTISING BRINGS."

A Farcical Comedy, in One Act, by G. M. Cohen and L. Grant. Produced (for the first time in England) at the Hippodrome, Derby, on Monday, Dec. 20

Jack Brown .....Mr. Geoffrey Saville
Julia Brown .....Miss Louise Fredericks
Minnie .....Miss Doc Hearne

This bright and piquant little sketch has been running in America for some time, where it is doing big business, and it recalls the parody on a famous line, "Sweet are the uses of advertisement." In this case, the advertisement, drafted with real Yankee smartness, accomplishes its purpose in double quick time. The story turns on the loss of a £10 note, which Jack Brown drops from the pocket of a friend's overcoat brought home from his club in mistake. The friend, in need of the money, presses for its return, and Mr. Brown advertises his loss in ingenious terms. Instead of offering a reward for the return of the missing "tenner," he announces in the newspaper that criminal proceedings will be instituted against the person who was "seen" to pick it up and who is known, unless it is immediately returned—a piece of bluff which produces results he could have little foreseen.

Mrs. Jack Brown was the finder, and, keeping her good fortune a secret, she spends the money at the stores on articles dear to the heart of a woman. Reading the advertisement subsequently she is terrified by the prospect of gaol, but the stores proprietor will not take back her purchases. Meanwhile she has won a hat in a competition in the same newspaper, the delivery of which, in her absence, leads up to some diverting by-play, in which the husband at first thinks the lost note is being restored to him. His disgust when he finds out his mistake and his cavalier treatment of his wife's new millinery are amusing incidents in the development of the story, whilst additional fun is provided by the impatience of the unfortunate friend, who is ringing up on the telephone every minute for news as to the progress of the quest. Mrs. Brown, agitated lest these calls are from the police, collects some of her domestic treasures in contemplation of a visit to the pawnbroker's, where Mr. Brown has already lodged his watch for £10, which he also promptly loses, and which comes into his wife's possession through the medium of the hired girl. Minnie, it should be mentioned, is an essential rôle. She is dull and clumsy, with something more than an impediment in her speech, and she manages, by her stupidity, to make confusion worse confounded. Some of the situations are cleverly conceived, and the success of the production is enhanced by a good "book," which is lifted above the commonplace by agreeable diction and some genuine wit.

The piece is well presented. Mr. Geoffrey Saville is well suited to the part of the luckless husband, which he plays with energy and artistic skill. Miss Louise Fredericks does justice to the light comedy rôle of Mrs. Brown, which abounds in such opposite moods as joy and disappointment, expectation and surprise. As the servant, Miss Hearne has a task which it is not given to everyone to fulfil. She uses her opportunities adroitly.

"EXCUSE ME."

Revusical Musical Farce-Comedy, Produced by Harry Day, at the Empire, Bristol, on Monday, Dec. 27.

This sketch is adapted by H. C. Sargent from the original book by Rupert Hughes, the smart dances are arranged by Edward Lauri, and the entire production is by him. Not much in the way of a story is usually expected in productions of this sort, and, briefly, it may be stated that Harry Mallory (Mr. Reginald Jecks) is anxious to marry Yvonne Duoray (Miss Toby Claude), but her father, Silas Duoray (Mr. Alfred Terriss), refusing his consent, the couple decide to get married on the sly. Accordingly a licence is procured, but the despatch case containing it is stolen. Harry tries to obtain another licence, but is unsuccessful, and as he for some reason is bound to leave New York for San Francisco, Yvonne accompanies him, hoping to meet with a minister en route. Much fun takes place on the Pullman car, and after many adventures all the parties meet at an Almond Orchard, Los Angeles. The marriage licence is restored, and Harry and Yvonne duly married, Silas Duoray now quite approving of the match.

There are numerous complications and much fun before the story is completed, and many pretty songs are introduced. The ladies' dresses, which are really good, are by Mme. Skinner, J. and H. Ellis being responsible for the gentlemen's attire.

Mr. Herman Darewski's music is pleasing throughout, and the augmented orchestra is ably conducted by Mr. Andrew De Leeuw.

The company is a strong one, including Jimmy Leslie, James Prior, Guy Maxwell, Reg. Fenton, and the Misses Velma Ellis, Violet Lloyd, Hilda Kirby, Dorothy V. Cecil, and B. Gomez in important parts. The Eight Lottie Stone Girls contribute some pleasing dances, and there is a large contingent of extra ladies, all elegantly gowned. The scenery, which is really excellent, is by Mr. G. R. Hemsley, comprising some heavy sets, of which may be mentioned "The Palm Court of the Hotel Magnificent, New York," "The Pullman Car," "China Town, San Francisco," and "The Almond Orchard, Los Angeles."

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SUBMARINE MOTION PICTURES.

The Trans-Atlantic Film Co., Ltd., presented at the Philharmonic Hall, Great Portland-street, on Boxing Day, a series of motion pictures which were taken under the sea by means of an invention of Captain Williamson and developed by his sons George and Ernest, under whose superintendence an expedition to the West Indies was successfully carried out.

Here they worked for several months securing some wonderful motion pictures showing the beauties of the ocean bed and marvellous coral formations. Then began their journey along the bottom of the Atlantic, nearly one hundred miles, from Nassau to San Salvador. During the trip they came across a sunken wreck, and took some extraordinary pictures of Mr. Williamson in diving dress, giving a realistic idea of a diver at work beneath the sea.

The pictures are varied by many interesting scenes of the West Indies. The sponge industry, for example, which is the staple business of the West Indies, is shown, and a thrilling fight between Mr. Williamson and an enormous shark provides an exciting finish to this fascinating as well as highly instructive film.

Mr. Alexander Telford, who, since the autumn of 1914, has acted in the capacity of general manager for Mr. Percy Hutchison's "Sealed Orders" Co., relinquished his position at the Theatre Royal, Aldershot, on Saturday last, when he was the recipient of a handsome leather attaché case presented by the members of the company and staff. Mr. Hutchison has now placed the business management in the hands of Mr. Kenneth B. Woodley, who for the past eighteen months has acted as assistant business manager for the company he is now to take charge of. Mr. Woodley commenced his new duties at the Grand Theatre, Swansea, on Boxing Day.

"THE MILLER'S DAUGHTERS."

Musical Comedy, by Paul A. Rubens, with additional numbers by Percy Greenbank. Produced at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, on Friday, Dec. 24.

Miller Brandscombe ..... Mr. H. De Lange
Miss Deare (postmistress) ..Miss Betty Shale
Cupid .....Mr. Mark Lester
Peggy ..... Miss Iris Hoey
Dollie .....Miss Elise Craven
Masie .....Miss Nellie Taylor
Lady St. Mallory .....Miss May Beatty
Lady Venetia Grafton ....Miss Doris Clayton
Lady Rosemary Beaulieu ..Miss Ivy Shilling
Lady Marjory St. Mallory Miss Gladys Squier
Lord Chayne .....Mr. Alfred Wellesley
Mr. Briane Molineaux ....Mr. Gordon Yates
Jack Charlton .....Mr. Harry Welchman
Miss Price .....Miss Mabel Hirst

Pleasant recollections of "Three Little Maids" are awakened in relation to Paul Rubens' new comedy, "The Miller's Daughters," which was presented to a packed house at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, on Christmas Eve. Actual traces of its predecessor (upon which it is founded) are by no means frequent; they exist only in some broad general features of the plot, and in the introduction of the well-remembered song, "She was the miller's daughter," which bids fair to prove as popular as ever. The story is quite simple. Owing to the business of the old miller of Market Mallory having declined, he jumps at the chance of his three charming daughters being taken under the care of Lady St. Mallory, who sees interest and attraction in placing them as attendants in the Russian tea-shop she is running in Bond-street, London. Incidentally, three society gentlemen, Lord Chayne, Briane Molineaux, and Jack Charlton—who are practically engaged to a trio of ladies in their own set—take a fancy to the three daughters, and eventually propose to them, much to the disgust of the three who are thrown over. There is plenty of good business employed in the development of the theme, and in addition to the comedy there is no lack of clever and catchy songs, with interludes of excellent dancing. Most of the songs are worthy of mention: "Tea-shop girls" and "Oh, give me Mallory," well and humorously rendered by Mr. Mark Lester as Cupid; "One day," duet between Mr. Harry Welchman (Jack Charlton) and Miss Elise Craven (Dollie), and by the first-named, "I'll dream of you" and "Love is a game," both finely sung; Miss Nellie Taylor's "The girl you love," in the character of Masie; the "Miller's Daughter" number, a big hit, by Miss Iris Hoey as Peggy, who again scored in "Something rather sweet," with a male chorus. The solo dance in Act III. by Miss Ivy Shilling was a great success, and the duet dance by Miss Doris Cory and Mr. Frank Verner was cleverly done and well received. Of the cast it must be said that everyone played with admirable spirit and skill, fully earning the enthusiastic applause with which the entire performance was received. Mr. Merlin Morgan, from Daly's Theatre, conducted the orchestra (for this performance only) in masterly style, and the producer, Mr. Edward Royce, was repeatedly called before the curtain at the close. The production keeps up worthily the sequence of Edwardesian successes which have formed the Christmas attraction at this theatre during recent years.

"THE IDOL OF KANO."

Comic Opera, Written by William F. Hewer, Composed by T. Pope Arkell, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Bath, on Monday, Dec. 20.

Two well-known Bath residents, Mr. E. Keene Oliver and Mr. Lewis A. Long, made their first venture together last week at Bath, and have spared no expense to provide a first class show in every particular.

The curtain rises upon a delightful scene displaying a public place at Kano. Dominus, King of Kano, every year chooses eight brides, whom he marries for twelve hours, and then throws into the tank for the sacred crocodile to devour. On the present occasion one of the chosen maidens falls ill, and Takaro, the confidential adviser to the king, decides that Merowe, who has discarded his advances, shall fill the vacancy in the octet, and so prevent her marrying her lover, Dorian, the Captain of the Guard. His schemes naturally go awry. Scintilla, the 99th Queen of Nyam Nyam, arrives on the scene, having come to find Dominus, to whom she was betrothed when three years of age. She mistakes Takaro for the gentleman, and marries him on the spot. Out of this Gilbertian situation much amusement arises, but when the end is reached everyone is paired off to their own satisfaction.

The author has written some clever lyrics, and the composer lilting and ear-haunting melodies, several of which were encored.

Mr. Walter Leveaux acted excellently as Dominus, and had a capital number in the song chorus and dance, "The spider and the fly." Takaro was amusingly played by Mr. Willie Hartill, a comedian of resource; and Mr. Powis Pinder worked hard and successfully as Shoo-Shoo. Mr. Alan Williams deserves commendation for his portrayal of Slogo. A great success was made by Mr. Ripley Evans as Dorian, his fine tenor voice being heard to great advantage in the solos, and also in the duets with Miss Evelyn Vernham, who, as the heroine, Merowe, showed she possessed a sweet soprano voice. A tower of strength to the cast was that old Savoyard, Miss Louie Rene, as the Queen, her fine presence, excellent elocution, and declamatory power, together with her cultured singing, adding greatly to the ensemble, Miss Hilda Davis gracefully danced a pas seul which had to be repeated.

At the conclusion of the performance the author and composer, together with Mr. Wigley, were "called" and enthusiastically applauded.

CHILDREN'S TREAT AT COLLINS'S.

The proprietors of Collins's Music Hall (Messrs. Derbyshire, Halford and Mitchelhill) entertained about 2,000 Islington children at their old-established place of entertainment, Islington-green, on Thursday afternoon. The programme opened with a cinematograph picture, "Fatty's Faithful Fido," which at once put the children into a merry mood. The artistes who kindly gave their services included the Alaskas, Lauri Bros., Edith Chantler, Chilton, Musical Lento, Finlay Dunn, Cissie Cave, and Van Hoven. Mr. Pett Ridge, Mr. Sparkes, and the management provided pennies, chocolate and oranges for distribution among the children. The visitors included Alderman G. S. Elliott, the Mayor of Islington, who was accompanied by the Mayoress, and several members of the Borough Council. A young girl, introduced by Mr. Sparkes, thanked the proprietors for "the jolly entertainment" they had given the youngsters, and called for three cheers for them. Mr. Mitchelhill, in response, said: "It has given us more pleasure to have you here than it has given you to come. We could not have given this entertainment but for the kind assistance of several people—all the artistes, who have come specially from long distances without any recompense to entertain you, and the band, which has come without payment." Mr. Halford also acknowledged the vote of thanks.

"I'll swear upon that bottle."
—*Tempest, Act ii, Scene ii.*

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"Drink and fear not."
—*Henry VI., Act ii, Scene iii.*

"THE SPANISH MAIN."

Drama, in Three Acts, by Vasco Marenas, Revived at the Apollo Theatre, Tuesday, Dec. 21.

How the schoolboys are going to enjoy "The Spanish Main" these Christmas holidays! For them the glorious stories that are told in the dark dormitories when the masters are a-supping and the boys are all supposed to be asleep are going to be realised. Each is going to see himself as the gallant, sorely-beset, but all-conquering, hero, Captain Patrick O'Gorman. Every boy up to eighteen (as well as the men in khaki just past that age) will fall desperately in love with beautiful, scornful, provocative Juanita, and will yearn to engage in single combat the "one-eyed murdering rat," Pedro Malorix, nicknamed the Vulture, who intended to slit Juanita's lovely throat as soon as he had forced from her the secret of the hiding place of her father's treasure. Of course, Juanita has given her heart to breezy Patrick O'Gorman, captain of the Albatross. But we need not pursue the story further. Rumour has it that the author of "The Spanish Main," Senor Vasco Marenas, is none other than Mr. Oscar Asche. If this be true, and Mr. Asche is under the impression that he has "suited" himself and Miss Lily Brayton with excellent parts, he has a far poorer opinion of his own and his wife's powers than we have. Of the two, Mr. Asche is worse off, for beyond being unfailingly cheery even in the face of torture and saying "What d'ye think of that now?" on every occasion with an Irish accent, he has no opportunity of showing himself the fine, sound actor we know him to be. Miss Lily Brayton looks lovely in her Spanish costumes, and flashes her rage and scorn or melts to tenderness with such bewitching grace that we are grateful just for her appearance. Mr. Alfred Brydone is shockingly wasted as the mulatto Casco, and Mr. Caleb Porter plays Pedro with all necessary ferocity. A performance that pleased us was the Ah Wi of Mr. F. Randle Ayrton. The actor got the sleek, crafty Oriental touch very skilfully. Another deserving mention is Miss Muriel Dole, intelligent and attractive as Rosetta, the serving maid. The scenery by Messrs. Joseph and Phil Harker evoked well-deserved applause on the opening night.

From Boxing Day, Dec. 27, till Saturday, Jan. 8, two performances daily, at 2.30 and 8.30, will be given of "Shell Out!" at the Comedy, with Fred Emney in the cast.

Few volumes are more welcome in the business office than that monumental work, Kelly's Post Office Directory, the 1916 edition of which is to hand. The current edition is the 117th annual publication, and in spite of the general disturbance caused by the war, the book is issued in good time. The work, which is of its usual size and shape, contains nearly seventy new trade headings, while the decrease in the number of pages amounts to a fraction over one per cent. The excellent coloured map of London remains one of the valuable features of the directory. A reassuring statement is made by the preface to the book, which declares that the ordinary English business man has never shown more keenness about maintaining and extending his trade than at the present moment, the proof being provided by the fact that the present edition contains more blocks of registered trade-marks, &c., than have ever appeared in any previous issue. Moreover, although no inconsiderable number of small tradesmen had during the past year given up business, the percentage in some cases being no less than 20 per cent., there has been no increase whatever in the number of the cases of bankruptcy or liquidation in the last two years.

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Mr. F. A. Lumley's Carnival at the Waverley Market, Edinburgh, has grown to be an annual institution in Edinburgh—an institution which attracts not only the residents of the city, but the many strangers within its gates. The opening of the present season, briefly chronicled in our last issue, took place on Monday of last week. The bare market has been transformed into a bright and pleasant place of entertainment, and, this year, the title "Bonnie Scotland" has been appropriately backed up in the scheme of decoration. The stage performances bring forward a host of artistes, and every variety of taste has been catered for in the clever turns which follow one after the other. Captain Woodward's Seals are seen in their marvellously intelligent juggling feats; Miss Marquis's Ponies give another admirable demonstration of animal training; the Imperial Russian Troupe provide an exhilarating turn, and amongst the performers who submit a programme of great merit are Fitzgerald's Club Juggling Girls, the Brothers Lloyd, the Sutcliffe Family, the Merry Maids, the Sisters Martelloni, the Stevanos, and the Three Mancinis. The side shows abound in rare and curious sights, and the delightful Royal Belgian Orchestra, under the direction of their able conductor, M. Ph. R. Meny, discourse most excellent music.

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Mr. Oswald Stoll's plans at the Alhambra will include an arrangement with Sir Frederic Cowen, the composer of some three hundred musical works, to write the music for a new ballet, to be produced at that house on Jan. 10, in which London may hope to see Adeline Genee. I should like to hear some ballet music from the pen of that gifted lady, Lisa Lehmann, the composer of "In a Persian Garden," and of the music to the fine old morality play, "Everyman."

THE MUSIC OF THE YEAR.

By KATE SEARLE.
(Continued from last week.)

Of course, as has been pointed out over and over again, what is wanted at this psychological moment are music dramas by our own Britishers, otherwise the danger is that the Toscas, the Carmens, the Pagliacci, will get such a hold over us that we shall continue to exist as a musical colony

Photo by Hana.
MRS. SEARLE.

for other nations for a further indefinite period. Let our composers forsake for the nonce their symphonies and suites, take stock of what is in demand, and make up their minds to produce the goods. Gripping, stirring life dramas clothed in music to match are what are wanted. The composers of the immediate future must be dramatists first and musicians afterwards.

Then let them make their appeal to the existing choral societies, self-supporting every one of them, and preserved from risk by the fact that each carries with it its own audience of the sisters, cousins, aunts, and other things belonging to its members.

An important rôle will have to be assigned to the chorus, as important as in oratorio (or as in Greek tragedies), so that it will be worth while for the societies to take up the works. To interest the masses in the national art, to make them part of it, actors in it, is the chief thing. The principal parts at public performances would be sung by professional opera or concert singers. In the first case the singers would also act. In the second the action would be carried on by mimes, as in the case of "L'Enfant Prodigue," that is, at the time of writing, running its course at the Duke of York's. There would be do difficulty in carrying on the action on the platform of any large hall. The scenery and "props." could be of the simplest character.

Rutland Boughton's "The Immortal Hour," a music drama performed at Bournemouth in January with success, is the nearest approach yet to what is wanted. The drama has perhaps too much of the mystical and the fantastical for the general run of English people. They like their "faëry folk" well diluted with plenty of flesh and blood, as Barrie remembered when he wrote his "Peter Pan."

An operatic venture that did not meet with good fortune, but, on the contrary, came very badly to grief, was the Russian-French season organised by Mr. Vladimir Rosing, the young Russian tenor, at the London Opera House, Mr. Hammerstein's white (and gold) elephant. The alluring scheme included five operas new to London, Tschaikovsky's "Pique Dame," Rachmaninoff's "Aleko," Felix Fourdrain's "La Légende du Pont d'Argentan." Cæsar Cui's "Mam'selle Fifi," and Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Mozart et Salieri," besides Délibes' "Lakme," also unfamiliar to the present generation. But Londoners were not attracted. The "classes," although Covent Garden's doors were closed against them, did not turn their Rolls-Royces Kingsway-wards; and the masses, who seem to be strangely and incurably desirous of understanding what all the noise is about, kept away because the operas presented were not only unfamiliar, but were sung in foreign languages. The season lasted just over a week, from May 29 to June 7, and "Aleko" and "Pique Dame" were the only new productions after all.

* * * *

British Composers' Innings.

This year has seen a rally to the standard of British music. As a set-off to the festival of the Three B's (Bach, Beethoven, Brahms)—which, by the way, was organised by Mr. Verbrugghen, the eminent Belgian conductor—we had two Festivals of music by British composers in April and May at Queen's Hall, organised respectively by Messrs. Beecham and Mlynarski and by Mr. Isidore de Lara.

A comprehensive and representative list of composers was drawn upon for the three concerts promoted and directed by Messrs. Beecham and Mlynarski. It included Elgar, O'Neill, Delius, Bantock, Holbrooke, Ethel Smyth, Grainger, Stanford, Wallace, Hamilton Harty, Peel, Cyril Scott, Frederic Austin, Percy Pitt, Arnold Bax, MacEwen, and Vaughan-Williams. The second series, of three orchestral concerts, under the direction of Mr. de Lara, were conducted by Sir Henry Wood. Mme. Réjane made the opening concert ever memorable for her audience by her intensely emotional delivery of Cammaerts' fine poem, "Chantons, Belges, Chantons." The musical setting of the poem, the "Carillon," by Sir Edward Elgar, is one of the two most important compositions of the year. The other is the same composer's "Polonia." Both were called forth by the war—by the sufferings of the two "little nations" under the heel of the Teuton, and each, in its own way, is a fine work. The "Carillon" was written in the first place by Sir Edward Elgar as a contribution to King Albert's book, the volume presented on his birthday in April last to the King of the Belgians. The work has won an enormous popularity. It has found a place in every scheme of concerts all over the country. It has even appeared on the "halls"—at the Coliseum, where, conducted by the composer, it was given for a week at each performance.

In Mr. de Lara's scheme were included several novelties: Joseph Holbrooke's "Orchestral Variations on 'Auld Lang Syne,'" Clutsam's suite "The Pool," and a "Symphonic Prelude," written for the occasion by Eugene Goussens.

Mr. Isidore de Lara has also given weekly concerts of British composers' music in connection with the War Emergency Entertainments, a scheme which has for object the providing of work for necessitous artistes. Its record of concerts given stands at something like three hundred.

No Covent Garden Opera.

With the important exceptions of the abandonment of the Covent Garden and Drury Lane opera seasons, and the Triennial Handel Festival, musical events in London have run pretty much their usual course, in spite of the depressing conditions. That is to say, the leading and long-established providers of music have given their usual number of concerts per season at their accustomed periods. But the autumn series in some cases have seen modifications of policies established by long precedent, and innovations have been introduced in an endeavour to secure the support from the public of which the profession stands in such urgent need. It has already been noted that the Queen's Hall Promenades were not too well attended, and Sir Henry Wood, sturdy pioneer in the field of new works as he is, was obliged, in the middle of the season, to execute drastic changes in his original scheme, and revert to "popular" and familiar programmes. Unfortunately, the September "Zepp." raids arrived to put a spoke in everybody's wheel—including the Promenaders, and during the last half of the season evening performances were given on alternate days only, with matinées in between.

On the other hand, the venerable and conservative Royal Philharmonic Society has made tentative advances in unaccustomed directions. Its concerts now begin at 6.15 p.m., instead of eight o'clock, and the interval has been abolished. This innovation is on account of the difficulty of getting home through the unco' murky streets. And with Mr. Thomas Beecham at the head of affairs the standard of musical progress has been raised. At the first concert of the season, two-thirds of the programme was devoted to Russian ballet music. That fact alone should be enough to make the original Philharmonic guarantors turn in their tombs.

Messrs. Chappell's Saturday ballad concerts have been well patronised. The Royal Choral Society, the London Choral Society, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Classical Concert Society, have all given their usual series of concerts in spite of the disturbing conditions. The London Trio, the London String Quartet, and the Philharmonic Quartet have made a good record of accomplishment in the performance of Chamber music.

Music's Roll of Honour.

Prominent among musicians who have fallen in the war are the names of Denis Browne, the organist, and Edward Mason. Second Lieutenant Mason was professor of music at Eton College, a violinist, and a fine 'cellist, and the conductor of the choir that bears his name. He received most of his musical education at the Royal College of Music, where he studied six years. Mr. Mason was also a member of the Grimson String Quartette, and played principal 'cello in the new Symphony Orchestra.

Some well-known artistes serving the country are Kennerley Rumford, F. S. Kelly, Hubert Eisdell, John Coates, and Herbert Heyner. There are many others. A very large proportion of the male students of the great educational institutions—the Royal College of Music, the Royal Academy of Music, Trinity College, and the Guildhall School—have joined the Forces.

Drawn by Kate Searle.

CELTIC FIRE AT QUEEN'S HALL.

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THE ERA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1915.

THE YEAR IN VARIETY.

The year 1915, that has been so exacting in its anxieties, is in its last hours. It has been a year of tremendous happenings; but, despite its sadness and its sorrows, there has been cause for profound thankfulness in the world of the halls, wherein business has again been remarkable, considering that the Empire is under a cloud of peril. Indeed, from reports to hand from London and the big centres an immense number of us seem to have solved the difficult ethical problem raised by the war—i.e., the amount of patronage which the public ought to bestow on music hall and theatrical entertainments—by going much as usual. Were we to assume that, with Europe in conflict, and millions of armed men facing each other in the trenches, we are all in duty bound to refrain from amusements of any kind, then it would certainly seem to follow that all places of amusement should remain closed during the war period—a procedure that has been advocated by many conscientious and well-meaning people.

Is there any justification, say they, for the pleasure of theatre or hall, when in neither one nor the other can mental stimulus or exaltation be discovered in the performances? Justification for non-closure is found in the presence of hundreds of our brave boys who come home for short leave from the trenches, and naturally seek much-needed relief from nerve wrack in the genial influence of lighter entertainment.

Under this generic title must, of course, be placed the revue, which is still the staple attraction of the variety theatre. It was regarded as a craze that would soon pass, but it has disappointed its critics by its continued vogue in the halls and its invasion of the West-end theatres. Here the best are to be found; but there are others that are stupid, indifferent, and degrading to the best traditions of the halls. The fault is in part due to the bad taste and want of critical power of their hearers, in part to the base astuteness of those who pander to these defects. These persons profess to know "what the public wants," and cater for it accordingly. As a matter of fact, they largely create and unquestionably foster the degraded appetite to which they minister and seriously imperil the good name of the halls, and menace the advance of the entertainment therein to higher ideals.

Matters must have been pretty bad, when the undraped indecency of the worst kind of revue drew early in the summer, for the first time in music hall history, a strongly worded Circular from the Lord Chamberlain, which did something to check an intolerable scandal and to purify the atmosphere of the halls. It would be ridiculous to contend, as some of the runners of pornographic productions did, that the success of a blatantly salacious production gives it a certificate of character; if such were the case, we should not want any censorship at all.

We have hitherto spoken of the menace of the worst kind of revue to the upward trend of the halls. Mr. FRED RUSSELL, the chairman of the V.A.F., in an article in the "Performer" of Oct. 28, wrote of another menace—that of the semi-bogus revue promoter flourishing in our midst, who "issues non-Award contracts, which, in many respects, are absolutely outrageous." The remedy for this undoubted evil was found in lowering the entrance fee of a guinea, hitherto charged for membership of the V.A.F., to the sum of one shilling in the case of a performer "actually taking part in any act, play, or production, whose weekly salary does not exceed £4." There are certain limitations of benefits, but they are unimportant, and one must acknowledge the wisdom of the democratic move, by which the authority and influence of the Federation have been considerably amplified and closer organisation secured.

No account of the variety year would be complete without a reference to the passing of Mr. W. H. CLEMART, a stalwart fighter as well as a good diplomatist, who by his fearlessness and conspicuous ability made the Variety Artistes' Federation an organisation which commanded the respect and esteem of proprietors as well as the trust and loyalty of its members. He had, too, an ever-pervading sense of the honour of music hall artistes, and indignantly resented any slur put upon them through the engagement of persons of unsavoury notoriety by the commercialised manager. He was manfully intolerant of the possibility of besmirching the profession he loved, and which he did so much to raise. Mr. FRED RUSSELL, who has succeeded him, has already shown himself a keen observer of the trend of events, an astute organiser, and a powerful advocate of the best interests of the V.A.F., and there can be no possible doubt whatever of his suitability for the onerous position or of his great popularity.

Our obituary list for the year is a long one. Many old favourites as well as younger entertainers have gone over to the majority. A veteran manager passed away in the person of Mr. CHARLES WELDON, who was manager of the London Grand Music Hall, Bridge-street, Manchester, 1864-66. He used to pay NELLY POWER £4 a week. The death of Mr. JAMES HOWELL removed from our midst, too, one of the most respected veterans of acting-management; and another well-known figure on the business side of variety passed away in the person of Mr. MAURICE DE FRECE, a member of the DE FRECE family, associated for many years with music hall enterprise in Liverpool. The late HARRY WRIGHT, one of the old timers, was both a comedian and a song-writer, and wrote the verses of "'E dunno where 'e are," and the late Mr. FRED EPLETT, an industrious writer of melodies, composed the tune. The number did a great deal for the reputation of Mr. GUS ELEN, and was certainly one of the most successful of the last century. Another composer of popular songs was Mr. ORLANDO POWELL. One of the last burnt cork comedians was the veteran SAM REDFERN, who was a great favourite at the London Pavilion about 15 years since. The world of the arena lost during the year a much respected proprietor in Mr. GEORGE GILBERT. Of the comic singers who have "crossed the bar," Mr. FRED EARLE belonged to the younger generation. His rise to star rank was meteoric, but unfortunately his popularity was short lived. The passing of Mr. ALBERT CHRISTIAN left a gap in the ranks of music hall baritones. Mr. CHRISTIAN was an excellent singer who did much for the popularity of that fine patriotic number, "Soldiers of the Queen," by LESLIE STUART. Mr. BOB HUTT, Mr. TED E. BOX, Mr. BILLY WILLIAMS, and Mr. HARRY RICH, if none of them reached the highest rank, all attained a good measure of popularity.

The deaths of the year also include those who have fallen on the field of honour. LIONEL MACKINDER, though really an actor, was a familiar figure at the Empire; he was killed by a sniper early in the year. And a few weeks ago we expressed our deep regret at the passing of Lieutenant GUY STRUTHERS, of the Royal Marines, who died from serious wounds sustained during the landing at Suvla. He was the senior partner of GUY AND GRAHAM, a duo that became very popular in a burlesque of the knut. BARCLAY GAMMON, the best humorist at the piano since the death of CORNEY GRAIN, was a great loss to the entertainment world.

Music hall charities have been considerably crippled by the war, and two appeals on behalf of Brinsworth and the Variety Artistes' Benevolent Fund have been launched by "The Era" and "The Stage." As we have fully dealt with the urgency of immediate aid to the chief fountain of music hall benevolence we need add nothing more.

This is a time of trial rather than of achievement, and the most that can be expected in the world of the halls is that its cheery inhabitants should mark time bravely, cheerfully, and hopefully.

Last Wednesday a company of talented amateurs gave a series of capital dramatic performances in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund at the Cheltenham Opera House, kindly lent, with stage staff, by Messrs. R. and H. Oswald Redford. Chief interest centred in a new comedietta, entitled "Matrimonial Misunderstandings," by Mr. Paul Clauss, which concerned the grievances of two newly married couples. The piece was enthusiastically received.

The estate of Mr. James Blakeley, who died on Oct. 19 last, is valued at £5,712 10s. 4d., with net personalty £2,648 12s. 6d. Mr. Harry Times, of St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's Park, and Mr. Harry Pigott Allison, of 14, Canonbury Park North, Islington, are the executors.

The will is dated Nov. 30, 1914, and testator makes the following bequests:—To his wife, £100 and furniture, etc.; £20 each to the executors; the residue of his property in trust for his wife for life or widowhood, and then for his children. If no children, then one-half to his wife's mother, Lilian Riopelle, of New York, and one-half to his brother, William Edward Blakeley. If Mrs. Riopelle should be dead, then all the property to his said brother.

"COMEDY OF ERRORS."

Shakespeare's Farce, Revived at the Duke of York's by Miss Horniman's Company on Thursday, Dec. 23.

Ægeon	Mr. Stanley Drewitt
Solinus	Mr. Ernest Haines
First Merchant	Mr. Gordon Fleming
Antipholus of Syracuse	Mr. Grendon Bentley
Antipholus of Ephesus	Mr. Herbert Lomas
Dromio of Syracuse	Mr. Cecil G. Calvert
Dromio of Ephesus	Mr. Charles Groves
Adriana	Miss Edyth Goodall
Luciana	Miss Christie Laws
Balthazar	Mr. Cecil Brooking
Luce	Miss Peggy Isitt
Angelo	Mr. Wallace Evennett
Second Merchant	Mr. Archibald McLean
Officer	Mr. Edward Nimmo
A Courtezan	Miss Amy Ravenscroft
Pinch	Mr. Napier Barry
Æmilia	Mrs. A. B. Tapping
A Servant	Miss Marie Royter

To the delight of all who appreciate good plays and good acting, Miss Horniman's company started a season on Thursday evening last at the Duke of York's Theatre, when two classics, seldom seen on the stage here, were chosen for performance, "The Comedy of Errors," by William Shakespeare, and Molière's "Les Femmes Savantes," done into English as "The Blue Stockings," by Mesley Down and Henry Seton (Miss Vera Beringer). Molière's comedy, in which he made war on the sentimental absurdities and uninformed pedantry which became a vogue among the society women of the period, is considered one of his cleverest satires. The English authors have adopted the rhymed couplets of the great Frenchman, and have skilfully retained much of the wit and agreeable satire of the original.

It is no exaggeration to say that the performance of both plays was a pure joy, so beautifully have producers and performers caught the spirit and charm of both. It is no use attempting to criticise Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors"; we just accept it and rejoice in its humour without question of its probability. The performance lasted just about one hour and a quarter, the interiors consisted chiefly of grey curtains with painted background views, the outdoor scenes of the usual modern scenery, and the whole was run through without a break. It is a thoroughly entertaining comedy, with its plot of a double mistaken identity and its deftly handled situations. The acting was exceptionally good. The two Antipholi, impersonated by Mr. Grendon Bentley and Mr. Herbert Lomas, were as like as two peas, the two Dromios, played by Mr. Cecil G. Calvert and Mr. Charles Groves, although not quite so alike, had both an excellent sense of true Shakespearean humour, while the dignified acting of the former pair was absolutely in keeping with Elizabethan traditions. Miss Edyth Goodall was a very human Adriana, and Miss Christie Laws singularly simple and charming as Luciana. Mrs. A. B. Tapping played the Abbess very soundly, and Mr. Wallace Evennett deserves mention for his convincing acting as the Goldsmith. As the Courtezan, Miss Amy Ravenscroft got exactly the right note of bravado.

"THE BLUE STOCKINGS."

Comedy, in Three Acts, adapted by Mesley Down and Henry Seton from Molière's "Les Femmes Savantes."

Armande	Miss Edyth Goodall
Heriette	Miss Christie Laws
Clitandre	Mr. Grendon Bentley
Belise	Miss Drusilla Wills
Ariste	Mr. Ernest Haines
Chrysale	Mr. Stanley Drewitt
Martine	Miss Muriel Pope
Philamente	Miss Vera Beringer
L'Epine	Miss Genee Andrews
Trissotin	Mr. Leon Quartermaine
Vadius	Mr. Herbert Lomas
Notary	Mr. Archibald McLean
A Page	Mr. Thomas Nickson

This adaptation is very well done, although, naturally, it lacks much of the style and elegance of the original, but the wit has been remarkably well retained. The acting in this case also was of a high standard. Mr. Leon Quartermaine in particular, who played Trissotin, was admirable as the affected fop. He invested the part with an air of distinction in spite of the affectation of the poet that is exactly in keeping with the character. Miss Vera Beringer (Henry Seton) showed a nice sense of discrimination as Philamente, and Miss Christie Laws was a very charming and natural Heriette. Some good work was done by Mr. Grendon Bentley as Clitandre, and Miss Drusilla Wills was cleverly humorous as Belise. Miss Edyth Goodall got a good deal of character into the part of Armande; she indicated the girl's repressed feelings particularly well. Miss Muriel Pope was capital as the outspoken Martine, and the other parts were all played with efficiency.

"CINDERELLA" AT BRIGHTON.

"Cinderella," a magnificent pantomime, was produced at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on Monday, and played to enormous audiences. The writer of the work is Mr. Joseph T. Barry, and the music is composed or arranged by Signor C. D. La Camera and Herbert Barnes, who are to be congratulated on the excellent result achieved. It is presented in ten beautiful scenes. Messrs. Elkan Brothers played a prominent part in supplying the scenes and costumes, the latter having been designed by Crow.

The part of principal boy is admirably taken by Miss Myra Hammon, who is charming as Prince Perfect. Miss Nellie Le Breton is a dainty and fascinating Cinderella; while the parts of her two Ugly Sisters are very naturally acted by the Misses Jennie Hackett and Mattie Everett. The fun is amply provided by Messrs. James Cozens, Burnaby and Newcombe, and Mr. Will Cave. The remainder of the feminine characters are well supported by the Misses Monica Ellestree and Elsie Lisle (a sweet thing in flappers); while the immortal Sunbeam, Cinderella's fairy godmother, is well portrayed by Miss May Tinsley. There is a numerous chorus of pretty girls. The Nellie Hill Troupe of dancers give pleasing displays, and Messrs. Burnaby and Newcombe also achieve a great success in this department. There are a goodly number of catchy songs, and altogether the pantomime is likely to be an extremely popular one.

"Bread and cheese and kisses" (song), and "Cap and Bells" (folly dance), both by the well-known composer and conductor, C. E. Howells, have been secured by Escott & Co., the publishers.

Mr. E. Taylor Platt has made arrangements with Messrs. Vedrenne and Eadie for the provincial rights of the Royalty success, "The Man Who Stayed at Home." The spring tour starts at Buxton on January 13, with all the important provincial centres to follow. Mr. Charles Troode again plays Kit Brent, and other members of the company include Messrs. Grahame Herington, Chas. H. Mortimer, J. Farries Moss, Russell Bendle, Misses Mary Lincoln, Amy Elstob, Dorothy Hall, Christine Jensen, Hilda Francks, and Edith Cuthbert.

"WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS" AT THE GARRICK.

Mr. Charles Hawtrey's beautiful production of "Where the Rainbow Ends" entered auspiciously upon its fifth season with Boxing Day's matinée at the Garrick. Once more the fascinations of Clifford Mills and John Ramsey's delectable Christmas compound of poetry and patriotism, farce and fairy, legend and laughter, were unfolded before an audience composed of the old, the very young, and the "still young," by a cast that can only be described as "top-hole."

The patriotic note was sounded with no uncertain voice, as befits the times. Surely the Patron Saint's part has been added to and brought up to date! Or perhaps the lesson of loyalty and love of country never came home to us so forcibly in other years. In any case Mr. H. R. Hignett seemed to throw quite a new light on St. George of England, and the words as he spoke them gained a new significance. He made a fine figure of manliness in his shining armour. His face, with its clean hewn lines of jaw and throat, is the right sort of face; and his bearing, with its blend of grave tenderness, and strength, and chivalry, is the right sort of bearing for the Patron Saint of Englishmen. We put our trust in him as soon as he appeared in the library at "Riversdale," Maidenhead, ready to champion the maiden in distress and her brother, plus Jim Blunders and his sister, to say nothing of "Cubs," on their journey to where all lost loved ones are found at the rainbow's end.

The four hardy adventurers, Rosamund and Crispian, and Jim and Betty Blunders, are played by as clever a set of young Thespians as could be found in a day's march—Miss Esme Wynne, Masters Harold French and F. Tharby, and Miss Violet Marley. They are absolutely convincing in their unstudied naturalness, and the sense of character is strong in each one of them. As for Cubs (Master Guido Chiarietti), what eulogies could overpraise his superhuman intelligence? Cubs always does the right thing in the right place, such as vanquishing a pack of hyenas—single-pawed—in the Dragon Wood, or biting the legs of stony-hearted Joseph and Matilda Flint; and he does it with an unvarying expression of sprightly cheerfulness which delights all the good people and exasperates the bad ones. Joseph and Matilda hate Cubs, and they are as bad and malign a pair of child oppressors as you will find in all the realms of story; but Mr. H. Saxon Snell and Miss Nellie Bouverie play them in such a spirit of free and vigorous farce, making you laugh so tremendously that you can't hate them as much as you ought to, even when Joseph, renegade Englishman as he is, sneers openly at the flag of St. George. But then he is well trounced for that by Monsieur Bertrand, our staunch ally, played with any amount of spirit by M. Georges de Warfaaz, late of the Belgian company.

Mr. Frank Petley's Dragon King is indeed a majestical embodiment of the powers of evil, with a blood-curdling laugh and an appalling zealousness in iniquity. Dunks, his first lieutenant, gets the right sinister touch from Mr. E. G. Browne; and Miss Mona Harrison is wild and weird as the Sea Witch, and flies here and there with eerie effect. Master Noel Coward gives a clever sketch of the Slacker in the Dragon Wood, a horrid example of the let-things-slide policy; and Mr. A. Dixon makes a brief but telling appearance as the slacker's ultimate end—the Slitherslime. Excellent are Miss Margaret Shelley as the Carey mother, and Mr. Godwin Nock in the parts of the Captain and the Genie of the Magic Carpet. Master Christopher Frere is a cute young Buttons, and Mr. Charles Cleather puts character into the Dragon Sentry.

The settings of the Fairy scenes, designed, all of them, by Mr. Tom Heslewood, and painted by Mr. Alfred B. Craven, are very beautiful and effective, notably the "Lake at the End of the Wood," a tree-ringed, flowery bay with the moon riding high over the waters. Here we see one of the many lovely ballets, of Flower Fairies and Dragon Flies, danced by elfin creatures that look as though they might have stepped out of Arthur Rackham's pages. Here, too, Miss Mavis Yorke, still the most ethereal, enchanting Will o' the Wisp that ever cajoled and mocked at poor mortals, gives us one of her fascinating dances with the charming Spirit of the Lake (Miss Grace Seppings).

Roger Quilter's real English music, as much a part of the play as the children, or the fairies, or the queer creatures that people the haunted woods, is played delightfully by the orchestra, under the musicianly direction of Mr. Kendal Grimston.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

Pantomime, Produced on Boxing Day.

Mr. Wallie Rice launched his first pantomime here on Boxing Day, with the assistance of his worthy lieutenant, Mr. C. T. Craven, and both are to be highly congratulated. The book of "Cinderella" is by Mr. Edward Lloyd, who has treated the story in a simple but effective manner. Mr. Lloyd is also responsible for the production, in conjunction with Mr. H. G. Brandon. There is plenty of good comedy, and lots of catchy songs, and the scenery is pretty and effective.

Miss Helena Fredericks as Prince Charming won all hearts; her excellent voice is heard in "Show me the way to your heart," "In the garden of my heart," and "A dream of delight," which all evoked warm applause. Miss Kitty Douglas made a fine and dashing Dandini. She had plenty of good numbers, "Oh, for the sight of the girls," "All together shout bow-wow," "All the boys in khaki get all the nice girls," and "Private Cassidy, V.C.," being splendidly sung. Miss Nellie Bowman was a pleasing and engaging Cinderella, singing nicely and dancing gracefully. Her rendering of "Dancing 'neath the Irish moon" and "What you never had you never miss" was pretty and effective. "You were the first to teach me how to love" was admirably sung as a duet with the Prince, and "There's a little baby in the moon" with Billy Buttons was also an excellent number. The sensation of the pantomime was the appearance of Miss Lily Long, whose costumes were a "scream." Her songs, "Skinney Lizzie," "It's lovely to be in love," and "The padlock dress," were highly enjoyed.

Mr. Teddy Denham caused plenty of fun as the Baron's page, Billy Buttons. He danced skilfully, and his songs, "When the boys come marching home" and "I like girls," were capital. Miss Mildred Bryon made a charming Fairy Godmother, and her best song, "There's a Land," was warmly appreciated. Mr. Herbert Lewis did very well as Baron Hasbeen, whose daughters, Emilia and Bedilia, were played by Mr. Jack White and Mr. Herbert Darsie. Miss Glydys Purcell and Miss Roma May as Lord Euston and Lady Maud Euston, were both good. Miss Helena Bevan excelled in several graceful dancing acts, and the Vi Thomas's Quartette of Dancers proved to be clever exponents of the saltatory art.

Mr. Moon conducted in an admirable manner.

The pantomime concludes with the old-fashioned harlequinade, with Mr. Tom Leonard as clown.

"JOY-LAND" AT THE HIPPO.

Revue, Book and Lyrics by Albert de Courville and Wal Pink, Music by Herman Darewski, Staged by William Wilson.

Beauty of spectacle is a tradition at the Hippodrome, and it is more than sustained in the new revue, "Joy-Land," which had a most enthusiastic reception from a packed house on Thursday night, when in a series of pictures of surpassing beauty the scene-painter, the costumier, and, more than all, the stage-manager, took chief honours. The revue opens brightly enough on the Landing Stage, Liverpool, finely realised, with a huge liner just about to start on a voyage. There are some amusing colloquies between the examiner of passports and a motley procession of passengers. The lush aboard is Harry Tate, who reaches the big ship by the gangway plank through the stalls. He is seen later on deck as a passenger suffering from mal de mer, who complains that he has a "circus inside working twelve shows a day." His internal qualms are not soothed by the remarks of the steward (Mr. Charles Berkeley), the doctor (Mr. Fred Eastman), or the robust passenger (Mr. E. Dagnall). The two last-mentioned comedians, with Miss Alice Hegeman and Miss Eileen Irish, soon afterwards share the responsibilities of a scene which is labelled "People We Dine With." Undoubtedly there is a funny idea underlying the episode, but the humour of it escaped the audience on Thursday.

Scene eight, "Cinema-land," was another disappointment, but compensation was to be found in the acting for the camera of a blood-and-thunder melodrama by Mr. H. Frankiss as the husband, Miss Edna Morgan as the wife, and Mr. Frank Whitman as a sprightful fiddler who haunts the other characters while playing the most incongruous melo music. In scene nine, "A Smoking-room," those clever dancers, Mr. De Haven and Miss Vera Nice, foot it neatly in some eccentric steps, and Neil McKay and Jeanie McKay, who are making their début in the West End, also dance with agility at the conclusion of their Scotch dialogue.

A vein of much-appreciated humour runs through scene 11, "What actors have to put up with," which opens with some smart business for the dancing domestics, Charles de Haven, Vera Nice, Charles Berkeley, and Edna Morgan, but which is chiefly distinguished by a skit on drawing-room melodrams of "The Ware Case" type, the three characters of the hero, the heroine, and the detective being humorously handled by Mr. Bertram Wallis, Miss Shirley Kellogg, and Mr. E. Dagnall. Mr. Harry Tate plays the rôle of a deadhead in the stalls, and interrupts the representation with repartee and criticisms of the most unreserved kind. He is the head and front of the comedy, and may be trusted with the help of the experienced Wal Pink to build up his part and add many humorous gags.

The lady star of the revue is Miss Shirley Kellogg, who queens it in lovely frocks and in a series of exquisite stage pictures that have not been equalled for artistic beauty in any production we have seen. She sings an effective song while seated in a rose-roped swing which descends from the roof, and swings over a garden rich in garlanded floral effects. She is heard to better advantage in the most melodious number of Mr. Herman Darewski's score, "The Girl from California." It is difficult to say which is the best of the pictures. Everyone will agree that Tulip-land is a delightful Dutch landscape. With a windmill in the middle distance and a vista of tulip fields, it makes the prettiest possible rendezvous for a series of Dutch dances. A surprising effect, too, is the sudden transformation of the stage into a gigantic tulip bed. A wonderful piece of perspective is the Panama Exhibition, the architecture of the columned buildings having quite a solid look. Another delightful scene is "Clownland," in which a host of Pierrots in dunce's caps and pink costumes pervade the stalls in a riot of jollity. Then there is "Lanterniand," where Oriental lamps of every conceivable shape and colour glow with softened splendour, and suggest to us a moon-bright Arabia. At the back, framed in lattice work, is a parterre of beautiful girls in dresses of turquoise blue and green, who twirl parasols. This is a great triumph of staging. An even greater is the amazing flag scene. Here we witness the ingenious enfolding of red, white, and blue bunting so that a large Union Jack is produced. At the same time a larger example of the dear old flag is gradually unfurled over the whole of the auditorium, amid a scene of wild enthusiasm. The music of the number, "Our own dear flag," sung by Mr. Bertram Wallis, does not unfortunately rise above the commonplace. At the close of the performance there was the customary call for the authors, and Mr. Albert de Courville in a short speech acknowledged his indebtedness specially to Mr. William J. Wilson, who deserved all the compliments that were bestowed upon him. Then George Graves was seen traversing the stalls gangway plank and making for the stage. He brought along a bouquet or two, and kissed the principals, including Harry Tate. There was much jollity, and the curtains closed in on a happy scene and a great success. "Joy-Land" is a country that will attract crowds of pleasure-trippers.

"HERE WE ARE" AT THE AMBASSADORS.

Miss Lila Field's company of English girls appeared yesterday afternoon at the Ambassadors Theatre in a Russian ballet, and an original revue, entitled "Here We Are," this being the first of a series of matinées by the same company. In the Russian ballet the girls acquitted themselves admirably. Miss Rinka Ivanova being the première danseuse, and Miss Peggy Whiteley the prima ballerina. Baby Eve Day won applause with her Russian dance, and the other dancers included Molly Poulton, Nonie Woodroff, Pamela Ray, Connie Wilde, Cecile Maule-Cole, Sylvia Wright, Noreena Feist. Miss Peggy Whiteley sung as the principal in a pretty scena, "A Dream in China," with speciality dances by Sylvia Wright and Baby Eve Day, the first part concluding with "The Butterflies' Revel."

In the revue, "Here We Are," which followed, Miss Joan Feist was specially prominent, appearing as a newsboy, with song, "Nobody," also as a dresser in a theatre, singing in this character "I'd like to be a lady." Miss Molly Poulton sang in good style "Gilbert the filbert," and Miss Connie Wilde gave "Kitty the telephone girl." A burlesque of the "Melville drama" was followed by a neatly done hornpipe by Miss Edna Francis, and "The Gaby Glide" by Misses N. Woodroff, Pamela Ray, and company. Other well received items were an apache dance by Miss Pamela Ray and Miss Connie Wilde, and other songs and dances, concluding with a harlequinade. The performance of the girls reflected great credit upon Miss Lila Field, their instructor, by whom the dances and revue were arranged and produced.

[Owing to pressure on space "Our Broadsheet" is held over.]

VARIETY GOSSIP

At the extraordinary general meeting of Tivoli shareholders, held yesterday, some 84 shareholders attended, and the position was exhaustively discussed over a period of about two hours. The proxies lodged by shareholders showed a substantial majority in favour of the board as against the Richardson Committee. On the committee's resolution being put to wind up the company, there voted only eight shareholders in favour of it, so the result was an overwhelming victory for the board.

The directors' report and accounts, which were taken at the ordinary general meeting which followed, were carried unanimously. It is understood that the future policy of the company will depend largely on national conditions, but the result may be either that the Tivoli will be rebuilt, or if a suitable offer is made for the site a sale may be effected.

Mr Harry Tate, while on his way on Monday from Shepherd's Bush Empire to the London Hippodrome, met with an actual motor mishap in Holland Park-avenue. His car ran into an obelisk in the centre of the road and was badly damaged. Fortunately neither the comedian himself nor his chauffeur was injured. Mr. Tate hailed a passing taxi, and got back to Leicester-square in time to scramble on board that fine liner at the Hippodrome.

Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, will give a short address, and Madame Kirkby Lunn will sing, at a private presentation at the Empire Theatre this afternoon of the official film "Britain Prepared," showing the Grand Fleet at sea and the New Armies in training. From to-morrow onwards the film will be shown publicly at the Empire each afternoon.

All the way from Los Angeles Mr. Charles Chaplin heartily sent £10 as a donation towards the children's Christmas tree and treat at the Horns. Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons, Manchester, posted £12 10s. per Mr. Fred Russell, who has forwarded one-third of the balance of charity contributions to the Variety Artistes' Federation £15 13s. 5d.

A complimentary dinner is to be given on Thursday, Jan. 6, in the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow, to Mr. Edward Foster, who is leaving for London early in January to assume the management of the Alhambra.

The Savoy Theatre, Glasgow, was sold in the Faculty Hall on Monday for £25,000. The theatre is seated for 2,000 persons, and the yearly feu duty is £22 4s. 3d. The purchasers are said to be a London picture house company.

Mr. W. S. Pearce has kindly lent, free of all cost, the Palace, Bath, for two matinées on Jan. 27 and 28, in aid of Lord Roberts' Memorial Fund for Disabled Soldiers and Sailors.

Syd Sydney, the youngest son of Cliff Ryland, wished to join under Lord Derby's scheme, but did not pass the requisite standard. His other son, Cliff Goldin, is in Group 31, and father is always at the command of the wounded and convalescent to entertain and cheer them.

Mr. Arthur Branscombe, whose revue "I've Seen the 'Arem," has been played continuously on the road for nearly a year and a half, is busy with a new revue, which he is writing in collaboration with another well-known playwright. It will possess some striking scenes.

The Moss Empires, Ltd., have just arranged that Mr. Harry Day shall present four more of their revues—some yet to come—in the provinces. Mr. Edward Lauri will continue to be Mr. Day's "producer."

The late Temporary Lieutenant Wilbur Dartnell, V.C., Legion of Frontiersmen, was the first actor to earn that coveted order. He performed under the managements of several variety and theatrical companies, including Mr. Bland Holt's and Mr. Dan Barry's. He was born in Australia, and was a great friend of Captain Kelly, the stock whip expert.

Having served with distinction in the South African and Matabele campaigns, he went to East Africa with the 25th Battalion Frontiersmen Fusiliers last February, and "almost my last words to him," writes his friend, Trooper Leo Dryden, "were, 'Dartnell, you'll win the V.C.' He gave his life to save his comrades, and proved himself to be an actor and a man."

Mr. Harry Burns, the well-known variety agent, is to be married on Jan. 10 to Miss Perle Pett, of Australia, niece of Mr. Walter De Frece and Miss Vesta Tilley. Owing to the strenuous times the happy couple have decided that the ceremony shall be of the quietest description. The honeymoon will be spent on the Cornish Riviera.

Dr. Walford Bodie, who commenced his South African tour at the Standard Theatre, Johannesburgh, with his own company, has made an instantaneous hit. Columns in the press are devoted to the description of his acts. Owing to his success he has had two special matinées each week, and has been booked for a week longer, making three weeks in Johannesburgh. An offer for India, Australia, Japan, and the Straits Settlements is under consideration.

The humour of the Coliseum Christmas entertainment is happily sustained by bright variety, but the chief attraction in the scheme of fun is Mr. Alfred Lester's new comic playlet, "Simpson's Stores," from the pen of Mr. Fred Rome, who has fitted Alfred with a capital part. Simpson has other and loftier ambitions than the mere retailing of sugar and tea. He is a dramatist in the making, with a true business instinct as to the advantages of the commercialised play. In the dialogue he pushes his "Stores," and makes trenchant remarks concerning his rival, Dobson.

Mr. Lester, who makes a comic entrance from the cellar, evokes the heartiest merriment by the manner he serves his customer, the actress (brightly played by Miss Buena Bent), and in the rehearsal of the Simpson play with its humorous touches and quaint turns of the dialogue, we have the gentle Alfred at his very best. There is a growing chorus of mirth. After a surfeit of pantomime gags, he is absolutely refreshing. At every performance there is a great reception for "Simpson's Stores," and Mr. Lester is called before the tabs. In his latest he certainly has the "goods," and may be felicitated on a great success.

A great musical attraction at the Coliseum is "The Palace of Orpheus," a production that delights the eye as well as charms the ear. The Elliott-Savonas make delightful music with saxaphones and xylophones, and their old-world dance realises the atmosphere of the Court of Louis Quinze. They have a big reception at the great house in St. Martin's Lane, where they are immense favourites.

In Lawrence Wright's Song Gossip last week it was stated that Miss Kate Carney had given a special permission for her song, "Somewhere in France, dear mother," to be sung in pantomime at the Elephant and Castle by Miss Eva Ellis. This was an error. The lady's name should have read Miss Gladys Nelson.

Trooper J. Graham Kelly, 2,744, Westminster Dragoons, 9th Cavalry Reserve, Newbridge Barracks, Ireland, and for the past five months a member of that regiment, was general manager for Mr. Albert Hengler, and produced "Nick Carter, of Mexico," at the Palladium for a three months' season.

Scott and Whaley, the popular coloured comedians, of "Don't push me no more" and "My friend," received a great ovation at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday evening. The boys were in one of their funniest moods, and the audience laughed in the heartiest manner at their continual funnyosities.

The Grumblers, Lois Barker and Percy Tarling, are bottoming the bill at Stratford Empire, this week, and have held that position all round their present tour. Next week they open at the London Coliseum with several novelty numbers, written and composed by themselves.

Miss Lily Vine wishes to thank the artistes who so kindly thought of her on her opening at the Royal Princess's, Glasgow: Marie Goodwin, Daisy Taylor, Sam Thomson, Mr. Boyle, Sisters Jerome, Bert Feldman, Bennett Scott, Eddie Jay, Rowland Hill, Mrs. Rowland Hill, and numerous wires from managers and proprietors. She also appreciates very highly the message from her mother and the various bouquets, especially that from Daisy Taylor and the present from Marie Goodwin.

Miss Ninette de Valois, the charming and accomplished young dancer who recently appeared with such success in an attractive act at the West End variety houses, again secures a personal triumph at the Lyceum in the pantomime of "Robinson Crusoe," the grace and finish with which she accomplishes her difficult solos in the delightful ballet, "Gems of the Ocean," being greatly admired and loudly applauded.

A most pleasing ceremony took place at the King's Hall, Dover, on Christmas Eve. Miss Showler, the popular and esteemed manageress of the hall, was presented with a handsome gold wristlet watch, which had been subscribed for by Mr. Harry Day (the general manager), the staff and a few friends. Mr. Bert Overs, one of the staff, made the presentation, and in doing so referred to the great esteem in which Miss Showler was held, not only by the patrons, but by the management and the staff. During the whole of the time she had been manageress, her kindness of heart had never varied, and her courtesy and interest in them had made such an impression that it would remain for many years to come. It was great testimony to Miss Showler's good qualities that many patrons of the hall had come forward with the desire to be identified with the presentation he had been called on to make.

Miss Showler said the gift had come to her as a great surprise, so great that she did not know how to reply. She had not the slightest idea that any such a thing was likely to take place. She wished to thank Mr. Day, as well as the staff and those who had contributed to such a handsome gift, from the bottom of her heart. It had always been a great pleasure to her to work with such a willing staff. It was a pleasure to be associated with them. Mr. Heggie, on behalf of the orchestra, also spoke.

At the meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday (19th) the Theatres and Music Halls Committee recommended that certain new conditions should be attached to all licences granted under the Cinematograph Act, and Mr. E. Smallwood moved that a further consideration should be attached that no children under 14 years of age should be allowed to enter picture palaces after the hour of 6.30 p.m. unless accompanied by their parents. After some discussion undertakings were given that the Theatres and Music Halls Committee should confer with the Education Committee, and that a considered report should be presented to the Council at the earliest possible moment, and Mr. Smallwood thereupon withdrew his amendment.

The unusual incident of wounded soldiers "booing" a band that was not present occurred at the Reading Barracks on Saturday afternoon. For many weeks past the artistes and the orchestra at the Palace Theatre in the town have kindly attended at the Barracks and given our brave wounded lads a couple of hours' wholesome amusement. But on Saturday there was no band. One or two of the members of the orchestra were unwilling to devote, without remuneration, two hours a week for the purpose of affording pleasure to the wounded warriors, and the matter was placed in the hands of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union. That body forbade the members to perform at the Barracks unless they were paid.

The Kavanaghs, in their juggling act, which contains the welcome element of humour, scored a most gratifying success at the Coliseum last week. They have no anxiety as to future bookings, the whole of 1916 being taken up with the Moss and other circuits. In their earlier career they were persistent globe-trotters, and visited Australia, China, India, Japan, and Africa. After June they are running separate acts. Stanley Kavanagh, the comedian, will continue the contracts booked for the present "Sports Shop" scena, and Frank will present a big act entitled "The Five of Clubs."

According to the New York papers, Klaw and Erlanger have disposed of the English rights in "Around the Map" to Albert De Courville. It is stated to be Mr. De Courville's intention to produce the McLellan-Finck play at the Hippodrome during the present season. But what's the matter with "Joyland," which is likely to hold the stage at that popular house for some time to come.

Mr. M. B. Leavitt, entrepreneur and agent, and once a famous end man with minstrel companies, is to have a testimonial. The performance will be at the Manhattan Opera House on the afternoon of Jan. 11. Fred Niblo will announce all the scenes and acts, and one of the novelties will be the second act of "The Mascot," with rôles reversed. The females will be impersonated by male stars, and vice versa. All the old-time minstrel performers who are in the vicinity will appear in honour of the beneficiare, whose old-time friend, W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) was one of the first to volunteer for the big testimonial, and he did so by wire from his ranch in Wyoming. It is hoped that Mr. Cody will be able to appear, for the first time for many years, on the stage, in a scene from Ned Buntline's old melodrama, "The Prairie Wolf," in which "Buffalo Bill" starred before he became identified with the Wild West. Mary Garden may also sing.

All those eligible for military service in Mr. Walter Bentley's production of "Odds On," at the Oxford Music Hall, wear armlets on the sleeves of their dress coats.

Fred Meteor (Private F. W. Davis) writes to me:—"Many thanks for 'The Era' of Dec. 15. The 'ping-pong' act is going strong out here. Wishing all the boys and girls of the profession a prosperous new year."

We are asked to give the following address:—Pte. F. Snell, No. 105705, C Section, 344 Company, M.T., A.S.C., 25th Div., The British Expeditionary Force, France, who is now on active service, and would like to hear from friends.

May Erne and "He" are credited in the Australian press with possessing one of vaudeville's most unique offerings. The popular duo were playing in November the Fuller time after a most successful tour of the McIntosh Circuit.

His numerous friends will be glad to hear that the operation on Mr. Carter Livesey has been quite successful, and are all hoping to hear shortly of his complete convalescence.

Mr. Harry K. Spain, who has been stage manager at the Royal Hippodrome, Dover, for the past two years, severed his connections, having been appointed stage manager to the "Frills and Fancies" revue. He made his departure with the good wishes of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He has been followed in the stage managership by his deputy, Mr. A. T. Sharp.

By the joint effort of the management and staffs of the Empire and the Royal Hippodrome upwards of 600 poor children from all parts of Nottingham were entertained to a Christmas treat on Dec. 23. Through the agency of collecting boxes, a football match, and other means ample funds had been provided, and the youngsters had a splendid time.

They assembled outside the Nottingham Hippodrome soon after midday, marched round the Market-place, and, returning to the Hippodrome, sat down to a bountiful repast of hot roast beef, potatoes, haricot beans, and Christmas pudding, served at tables set out on the stage. Subsequently they witnessed some excellent cinema pictures and "turns" by George Sandford and Master Leslie, and were presented with oranges, Christmas cards, and packet of sweets.

The Sheriff of Nottingham (Councillor James Clarkson) spoke a few words to the youngsters, and, in their name, thanked Mr. H. Lyons and Mr. A. H. Williams (the resident managers), and Messrs. W. G. Cartwright and H. Kettle (the stage managers), and their friends for their kindness and enthusiastic labours.

We regret to have to announce the very sudden death, on the 16th inst., of Mr. Jerome (Jerry) Tronson, who for many years had been advance agent for Messrs. Bostock and Wombwell's No. 1 Menagerie. The late Mr. Tronson was widely known to many showmen, and news of his death will be received with regret by a large circle of friends. He was forty-three years of age.

Mr. Charles Waterfield, who will be remembered by many of the older generation as a popular performer in the 'seventies and 'eighties, has enlisted at the age of 66, and is now quartered at Clipstone Camp, Notts. Charles, it is said, had no difficulty in persuading the military authorities that he was a youngster of 45. He started his career as a call-boy at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, at the age of 15, and has therefore been associated with the stage for over 50 years. He was a great favourite at the Star, Liverpool, and at Day's, Birmingham.

I have to thank numerous correspondents in all parts of the country for friendly messages, which I heartily reciprocate. Chirgwin has sent me the kindly message, "Greetings for Christmas and Peace in the New Year," in the form of a neat booklet, containing "a few snaps from the popular white-eyed one's Burgh Island home, at Bigbury-on-Sea, South Devon," far from the madding crowd.

THE PILGRIM.

"ODDS ON" AT THE OXFORD.

In selecting "Odds on" for its Christmas attraction, the management of the Oxford Music Hall chose wisely. For once in a way we have a revue with something approaching an appropriate title, inasmuch as it is "odds on" that the Oxford janitors will be able to say "standing room only" for the duration of its run there.

One forgives the absence of a coherent story. Indeed, the audience is scarcely permitted time to remember such a thing, for "Odds On" is just a riot of comedy, sometimes subtle, sometimes boisterous, occasionally interrupted for the introduction of vocal gems. That resourceful droll, Mr. Harry Dent, figures as Bob Little, a prosperous bookmaker, who buys a mansion in order to satisfy the ambitions of his wife, Tiny, played by Miss Dolly Elsworthy, an actress who is for ever surprising us with fresh successes in character impersonation. We recall her as one of the most natural of the numerous Nell Gwyns who strode the stage a few years ago. Her duet with Mr. Harry Dent, entitled "Lucky boy," is a masterpiece of mock-romance. Another vastly entertaining episode is what is described as "a friendly game"—whist, played by Messrs. Dent, Bay Russell, and Hyde and Cody. The latter comedians also distinguish themselves as waiters in an acrobatic frolic. Mr. Bay Russell, appearing as Archie Selwyn, the suitor for the hand of Mr. Little's daughter, Lucy, adds to the general liveliness with a song, "All have this with me." Lucy is charmingly personated by Miss Zoe Windley, who, apart from contributing to several duets, makes a very distinct success with a ballad entitled "Molly." In the last of the three scenes, all of which are elaborate, Bob Little discovers that the mansion is haunted, and to those who know Mr. Harry Dent no description is necessary as to the hilarity derived from this situation. Another joyful member of Mr. Walter Bentley's company is Miss Fanny Harris, who delivers "Remember," a patriotic ditty, surrounded by Red Cross nurses, Scouts, and Chelsea pensioners.

In the remainder of the programme is the Daunton-Shaw Troupe, Australian cyclists, expert and entertaining. Mr. Jock McKay's Scottish humour was tremendously enjoyed, judging from the applause; the Melodians, consisting of Miss Yvonne Deryl, at the piano, Miss Kathleen Grahame, violinist, and Miss Ida Carton, who sings "Love's garden of roses," and "Ave Maria" go delightfully, should enjoy a full measure of prosperity on the variety stage. Mr. Harry Webber, the versatile comedian and mimic, is another popular contributor; and, finally, there is Miss Marie Lloyd, indisputably the Queen of Comediennes, with a wardrobe of wonderful gowns in which to sing such delectable ditties as "Woman's opinion of man," "I love you with the khaki on," and "The new wide skirt."

["The Era" has a larger circulation than that of any other theatrical or variety journal published in the United Kingdom.]

THE OLD PRO'S STAKES.

JOE ELVIN'S NEW YEAR WISH.

Dear Mr. Barnard,—Please put me another fiver on for the Brinsworth Stakes. Convey my sincere thanks to all the starters, jockeys, punters, bookies, and all the good old sports for weighing in so readily in response to "The Era" Fund appeal for the Old 'Orses at Brinsworth. I wish them all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May they never be left at the post is the sincere wish of one of the stable lads.

JOE ELVIN.

"THE ERA'S" COLLECTION FOR BRINSWORTH.

Members of the profession are hastening to the rescue of the Music Hall Benevolent Institution by backing Brinsworth, with Joe Elvin in the saddle. Additions have been made since our last issue, and the list of "backers" now includes:—

Oswald Stoll, Esq., Arthur Collins, Esq., Percy B. Broadhead, Esq., Bert Feldman, Esq., C. Cochran, Esq., A. Chudleigh, Esq., Mlle. Alice Delysia, Miss Margaret Delany, Miss Maidie Scott, Mr. Neil Kenyon, Frank and Jen Latona, Mr. G. H. Elliott, Mr. Herbert Shelley, Miss Nora Delany, Miss Florrie Forde, Mlle. Adeline Genée, Miss Marjorie Patterson, Mr. Mark Sheridan, Mr. Fred Emney, Martin Adeson and Clara Bernard, Violet Loraine, Robb Wilton, Syd Walker, Mr. Pat Doherty, Mr. James Atray, Miss Susie Bevan, the Great Maurice, Miss Helen Brinckman, Mr. John Chisholm, Walton and Lester, Mr. Chas. Cruikshanks, Mr. Geo. Formby, Mr. Will Sley, Mr. A. W. Deer, Mr. Bert Lloyd, Messrs. Willson's (Printing Works, Leicester), Mr. J. S. Elias ("John Bull"), Mr. George Denby, Mr. Bennett Scott, Mr. George Mozart, Hector and Miss Lolletta, Miss Dolly Ray, Captain Devereux, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar King, Mr. Nat. Wheeler (Simpson's), Mr. Walter Idris, Mr. B. Sherek, "John Bull" Human Document Fund, Prof. John Buer and Domino, Felix Pitt, McPherson (with his piano and accordion), Phil Rees, Fuji Family, Miss Dolly Varden, Mr. Edward Cranston, the Elliott-Savonas, "C. N.," Gracie Vicat, Fred Greenlees, Paul Rochefort, Alf. Cawthorn, Tom Lloyd, A. Borthwick, Harry Champion, Sisters Gaye, Fred Conquest, Brothers Webb, Edward Thane, Kitty Stewart, Cecilia Dare, Wm. Armstrong, H. and M. Rayne (sale of Rayne's Date Books), collection by C. J. Saltley (Empire, Stockport), subscribed to by J. H. Oakden, J. Bartry, Mac Sweeney, J. W. Churchill, C. Avolo, G. Avolo, Frivkin, Miss O'Hanlon, Miss Chard; collection by Syd Walker, subscribed to by Lily Leamore, James Leslie, Signor Borelli, Reginald Adair, William Clark, Kitty Collinson, Katherine Adair, Jessie Ewart, Allan Leslie, Harry Daniels, Joe Clarke, Jackson Dancers, Mrs. Barrett, Mabel Thomas, Mrs. Hilaby, Mr. Hilaby, W. Seaman, J. Turner; "W. F. B.," Gus Fowler, Messrs. David Allen and Son; collected by Harland and Rollison (Poole's Myriorama Co.), subscribed to by Prince Kuroki, George Snow, Goodall and Knox, Chef Parker, P. F. Cowper, "R. T.," Berry and Hart, W. S. Smith, Harland and Rollison; G. Ranger, "N.S.B.D." Basil Scott (Charlene and Charlene), Sydney Vereker, Miss Mona Limerick; collected by J. Adkin, subscribed to by Rex Fox, J. Adkin, H. Karr, A. Carnworth, M. Maden, Anna Kemp, Alice Gill, Madge Raynor; F. V. St. Clair, Mendel, "R.," Geo. E. Belmont, Pat, Doris, and Avice; Fred Solo, Maurice Arioso; collection by Sam Hilton, contributed to by Sergeant-Major Bell and Sergeant Slack, Heavy Battery, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sam Hilton, A. D. Robbins, and Mrs. Shakespeare (proceeds of matinées). Instalments of amounts collected by "Bookmakers" have been received from:—

Bookmakers:—Samaroff and Sonia, Miss Violet Essex, Miss Gwladys Soman, Mr. R. A. Roberts, Mr. Jack Sands, Mr. Bert Errol, and Mr. Bert Lloyd.

Recruits are Wanted

for the army of "My Bookmakers," who are all striving to gain the reward for making the biggest "book," namely, a

Tablet in the Old Pro's Home

at Brinsworth, a project that has the hearty approval of the founder of the home.

Artistes are urged to apply at once for our little vest-pocket book, which, though small, will accommodate many bob bets, and will help towards the cause of saving the Music Hall Home—otherwise known as the Old Pro.'s Paradise—from want.

Address all communications, The Hon. Treasurer, 'The Era" Office.

All amounts will be published separately in "The Era" on the conclusion of the Old Pro's Stakes, the date of which will be duly announced.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" AT TOTTENHAM.

Produced on Boxing Day.

A packed house on Boxing Day testified their hearty appreciation of the good things served up in Mr. Harry Burns' smart little pantomime, "The Forty Thieves." The pantomime, which is in two parts, contains twelve scenes, and the various stage pictures from the opening Market-place scene to the concluding Grand Terrace in the Palace are excellent examples of scenic art.

Of the principals engaged, Miss Maude Esmond as Ganem plays in genial and dashing style, and quickly becomes a favourite. Vocally she scores heavily with "Any more for the boat train?" "Blue eyes," and "Night-time in Dixieland." Miss Winnie Collins is a piquant and pretty Morgiana, and her songs go wonderfully well. "Great big wonderful baby" is rendered most coquettishly, whilst "Kentucky home" wins loud applause. A duet between Ganem and Morgiana, "Teach me how to love you," is really delightful, and receives ready recognition. Miss Ethel Holden is a dashing and smart Abdulla, and sings "They all did the goose-step home" with a telling voice. Mr. Tatten Hall is first-class as Ali Baba, and sings a very good number, entitled "Get that girl for me"; and he gets her, too, for Miss Donna Hayden, as Sing-Sing, an alluring Persian lady, appears and joins Mr. Hall in a pretty dance. Mr. Fred Blake is excellent as Cassim, and is seen to great advantage in the Cave scene; as also is Marabec, in the person of Mr. Johnson-Fitch, who sings "Gold, gold, gold," a number which shows his fine voice to advantage.

Mr. Uty Rowlands is immensely droll as Hassarac, the terrible lieutenant of the Thieves; and as Cogia Mr. Edwin Garth is richly humorous in a dry manner. Mr. Billy Matchett and Mr. Bobby Walker as the two policemen, Picup and Pyecan, are the source of peals of merriment whenever they are on the stage. But the mirth-provoker who captures the children's fancy is Mr. Reuben Kitchen, disguised as Iphraim, an agile donkey with a haunting bray and the gladdest of glad eyes. Miss Maud Hughes as the Fairy Sesame is very pretty, and possesses a fine voice, which is heard to excellent advantage when Cassim attempts to steal the robbers' gold. Miss Marie Claire as Kara works hard, and gets a lot of fun out of the part of a waitress; whilst Mr. Victor Tyler is successful as Shacabac. The orchestra deserve a word of praise for their excellent work, under the skilful direction of Mr. J. Rogers.

THE PALLADIUM PANTOMIME.

"CINDERELLA."

Pantomime. Book and Lyrics by Clifford Harris and "Valentine." Music composed, selected and arranged by James W. Tate ("That").

Cinderella, that humble maid, who will always be associated with the "grate," is the supreme heroine of the nursery, and her sweet rule will never be questioned. She had a luxurious, as well as a humorous entourage at the Palladium on Boxing Day, being the central figure of a pretty spectacle, completely captivating in its treatment of the immortal story, and answering all the natural expectations of juvenile Londoners. By the time these lines are in print a large number of them will have opened their eyes in wonderment at the glittering splendour of the crystal coach, drawn by four diminutive ponies, which takes the transformed Cinders to the Prince's ball. And the ball itself! What realisation of the romance of the heroine's triumph! The guests in Court costume dance the minuet in a magnificent apartment to the strains of Boccherini's minuet for strings—a happy choice of Mr. James W. Tate, who has selected and composed a score that has melody, brightness, and delicacy. The fun, too, never slackens. Mr. Harry Weldon, who comes with a high reputation, is chief of the fun-makers, and gives an original touch of humour to the part of Buttons. We meet him first in the Woodland Glade, a pretty bit of brushwork by John Bull, and watch his struggles with a property turkey with a growing sense of the absurdity of the business. Then, in the Kitchen scene, he impresses us by the genuine comedy of his love-making to Cinderella. Again, as an untamable "transgressor" of the law whom the "police will be after," he keeps us laughing. He has a great chance, too, with his "Baby Show" song.

The opportunities of the Baron's elder daughters, and of the Baron himself, will probably be increased before the pantomime grows much older. Mr. Victor Crawford already realises the unctuousness of that impecunious nobleman; Mr. Ivan Berlyn is amusingly shrewish as Minnie Mumm, the more ancient of the spinsters; and Mr. Bert Errol, with his high falsetto voice, brings down the house by his rendering of the "Jewel Song" from "Faust." The romance of the story is never lost sight of by that debonair and courtly hero, the Prince Charming of Miss Nora Delany, who presents a most attractive scena, "Cupid, you're no friend of mine," in which she is surrounded by a number of cupids. With a handsome face and figure, and an engaging youthfulness, Miss Delany, who is making her first appearance in London as principal boy, expresses warmly in her acting the devotion of the young lover. Especially is this the case in the first meeting with Cinderella, the love scene between the pair having a touch of idyllic charm. This is the more easily accomplished when the heroine is played with the simplicity and freshness exhibited by Miss Daisy Burrell, whose Cinders is no pale or common drudge, but a cheery optimist with an unwavering faith in her destiny. She has a pretty number in "Five years old," sung near the kitchen hearth, the effect being much enhanced by a hidden chorus. In the ball-room she bears herself with dainty grace and elegance. Miss Bessie Butt makes a lively Dandini, and has just the swagger necessary to the part. She scores most unmistakably in the song, "Come and cuddle me," in which a number of pretty children assist. The Smarte Brothers do not belie their name. In playing the broker's men they introduce a clever tub act, and make the ancient cab horse that takes the baron and daughters to the ball a really comic quadruped. The authors—Mr. Clifford Harris and "Valentine"—open the pantomime with the customary dark scene, wherein Killjoy, the demon of pessimism, summons Thunder, Lightning, Rain, Fog, Frost, Snow, and other uncomfortable satellites to work his wicked skill. He is opposed by Sunshine, the fairy godmother, a part played with dramatic effectiveness by Miss Molly Hughes. Mr. Sydney Granville as the Demon, utters the dark forebodings in quasi-recitative fashion, his music being particularly well written and sung. Mr. Bob Reed, the Clown, appears before the curtain in the manner of Tonio in "I Pagliacci," to recite a rhymed prologue, and heads the troupe bearing his name in a rollicking harlequinade, and an exciting trap-act that is amazingly clever. Mr. James Tate occupies the conductor's seat, and his careful and skilful direction of the orchestra is of great advantage to the production. We have already praised his music; but we should not omit to mention the elaborate and stirring fanfare of trumpets that heralds the Prince's entry into the ball-room. Mr. Charles Gulliver, Mr. Julian Wylie, and Mr. James W. Tate, who "present" the pantomime, are to be congratulated.

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WHEN THE MOON SHINES BRIGHT ON CHARLIE CHAPLIN
GOOD-BYE, VIRGINIA.
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YOU GREAT BIG WONDERFUL BABY.
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PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK" AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

Mr. Chas. Revill's Christmas annual, "Jack and the Beanstalk," was produced at the Theatre Royal on Boxing Day, and gave indications of being one of the most successful of the many pantos. staged under his ægis for many years. The burlesque, written by Messrs. Martin Byrne and Wm. De-Lacy, and rehearsed by Mr. De-Lacy, provides the public just what they want as a seasonable entertainment. It was well received on Boxing Day by big audiences. Little need be said of the way the story is developed, the traditional nursery legend being fairly well adhered to.

In the village scene at the opening, merry little village lasses and lads come tripping in and dance and sing, with tuneful choral harmony. Hence follow the Dame, Muggins, the Village Idiot, King Collywobble, without patrimony, and nothing to survey, Jack and the Princess, Prince Peerless, and Dorothy, his best girl. Some brisk comic business is indulged in, with an accompaniment of song and dance. Scene fo..ows scene, from the "Corridor of the King's Palace" to the Dame's "Backyard," and on to "Beanland," and to the "Giant's Gates." In the second part of the panto., we see the "Exterior of King's Castle," the "Giant's Kitchen," and, finally, "Jack's Palace." The audience enjoyed the panto. thoroughly, both of things which spring from the story, and those which have apparently no discernible connection therewith.

We see throughout the varied scenes much of Mr. Wm. De-Lacy as the Dame, whose humour is funny without a semblance of vulgarity. Mr. Geo. Millard is a brisk comedian as the King, and takes his full share of providing laughter. Mr. T. Maynard does well as Muggins; Mr. Fred F. Lloyd, as the Giant, is a monster in size, as well as in ferocity. The Costello Bros., as the Giant's Babies, are clever acrobats. Miss Amy Osborne, as Jack, is sprightly and vivacious, and Miss Winifred Raye is sweet and tempting as Princess Diamond. Miss Violet Deviza, as Prince Peerless, and Miss Ada Brogden as Dorothy are full of sparkle, and neat in dance and costuming. Mr. Will Lawton is the Mephistophelian Butcher, and is sufficiently demon-like. Miss Connie Irwin, as the Good Fairy Starlight, wins applause by her vocal efforts. The Five Weetmans add to the effect by their clever dancing and posing, and the Chorus of Girls is above reproach.

"ALADDIN" AT BATH.

On Monday afternoon a capital house gave a splendid send off to Mr. Fred Clements' excellent all-round production of "Aladdin," at the Theatre Royal, Bath. It is given in eleven scenes, and the performance went without a hitch. The book, by William Holland, keeps well to the popular legend, no prettier or more elaborate scenery than that from the brush of Alec Toole has been seen locally for many a year, and the wardrobe by Madame Whiteside and assistants is worthy of any West End house. The music, which includes many of the popular song successes of the day, is composed and arranged by Chas. Pearson and Caffyn Baxter.

The company engaged is an excellent one, all the members entering into their work with the utmost enthusiasm. Miss Mabel Hind makes a dashing principal boy, speaks her lines with point, and sings well. She has the hit of the show with the chorus song, "Coming home," which the audience took up at once. Miss Rita Vincent looks well and sings admirably as the Princess, her best effort perhaps being the pretty ballad, "Ladder of love," and the pleasing duet and chorus with Miss Hind entitled "Chinatown." Miss Ada Durham as Pekoe makes the most of her chances, and is recalled for her song and dance, "What do I care?" Mention should be made of Miss Viviene Dudley (So-Shi) and Minnie Holden (Yum-Yum). Miss Evelyn Grace is the Fairy Electra, and her rendering of the ear-haunting melody, "Blue eyes," is loudly applauded.

The comedians vie with one another to keep the ball rolling, and that they succeed is clear by the laughter that reigns from first to last. Fred Hutchings is a host in himself as Abanazar; his parody, "Till the boys come home," and "Goosey, goosey gander," are sure winners. Mr. Rob Currie makes a very good Dame, always funny, and never a trace of vulgarity; his ditty, "I'm in love," tickled the house immensely. The Bros. Valdo, as the two Policemen, came with a big reputation as laughter makers, and right well they maintain it. They work hard, and their eccentric motor 'bus speciality is a triumph of cleverness and hilarity. Mr. Chas. Steane makes a majestic Emperor. Mr. Ted E. Rose completes the cast as Wishee Washee, and his coon song and dance, "Moon, moon," gains him a just recall. Last, but by far from least, is Little Emmie, the première danseuse. For one so young her Pavlova-like measures are little short of marvellous, and, supported by the Twelve Sunshines in several scenes, the house rose at her in delight and appreciation. The acrobatic dancing by the Four Sunbeams, dressed in the colours of the Allies, is also very clever. The ballets and dances are arranged by Mlle. Pauline Rivers, who evidently has thoroughly studied her art. There is a bevy of ladies in the chorus, who do their work with enthusiasm.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY" AT BELFAST.

Mr. Fred. W. Warden presented his twenty-first grand annual pantomime at Grand Opera House, Belfast, on Christmas Day, and, judging from the reception, the pantomime bids fair to enjoy a prosperous run. The book, by J. Hickory Wood and R. C. Oldham, is clearly told, and the music, by Mr. S. P. Swanton, which included several catchy Feldman numbers, especially "You are Irish, too," and "Kentucky home," is both tuneful and sparkling. The scenery, from a spectacular point of view, is quite the equal of any of its predecessors. Scene IV., the Courtyard of the Castle, and Scene VI., Fairyland, being truly magnificent. The artists, Messrs. R. C. Oldham, R. G. Hall, and J. Barry Parker, must indeed be congratulated on their efforts. The elegant and handsome costumes commanded the utmost admiration, and the clever dances were arranged by Fanny Boulton and Lottie Stone.

A striking success was well won by Miss Clara Beck, who appears in the title-rôle. Miss Beck, who is a most accomplished principal boy, rendered "You are Irish, too," and "Kentucky home," with grace and charm, and these popular numbers were loudly encored. Miss Josephine Ellis was a delightful Princess, her singing of "Sprinkle me with kisses," with its added dance, gaining this clever comedienne a fine reception. Miss Ellis also gained honours for her tuneful rendering with Miss Beck of the duet, "Same sort of girl." The rôle of Jarvis was undertaken by Mr. Tommy Mostol, who was simply inimitable, the whitewashing and papering scene creating much merriment. Mr. Mostol in several scenes is very ably assisted by Mr. Charles Calvert, who admirably plays King Musty. Mr. Walter Dale plays the Dame on traditional lines with great effect, and his smart impersonation and funny and original patter gained him a deserved reception. He sang "Private Michael Cassidy" in rollicking style. Miss Sissie Brand was capital as Brian, and gained much favour for her rendering of "Goodbye, Virginia." Mr. John Sandbrook appeared as Malecesso, and his fine bass voice was heard to advantage in "The demon king." Miss Dorothy Grey appeared as Pansy, and her dancing was much admired, and congratulations are due Mr. Leslie Barker for his impersonation of Happy Billy Black, his singing of "Mr. Moon" and dancing being worthy of all praise. Miss Beatrice Simmons appears as Titania (Humpty Dumpty's Fairy Protector), and the cast was completed by Mr. Frank Mackay. The King's Cyclists, Brock's Cycling Comedians, appear in their remarkable act, their feats being wonderful; and Percy Korah and Boys furnish a clever exhibition of dancing. The Eight Gaiety Girls also appeared in several dances, and their performance was enthusiastically received. This notice would be incomplete without reference to the valuable supervision of Mr. Fred W. Warden, whose efforts have in "Humpty Dumpty" been crowned with so much success. Mr. Norton Shields is the stage manager, and performed his arduous duties with skill; and Mr. James M. M'Cann looked after the front of the theatre with his customary managerial care and urbanity.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRADFORD.

For the third time during his lesseeship of fourteen years of the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, Mr. Francis Laidler has selected the nursery story of "Cinderella" for his annual Christmas pantomime, which was successfully produced to a crowded audience on Christmas Eve. As usual, Mr. A W. Field is the author of "the book," which is on novel lines, teeming with local allusions, excellent jokes, and smart witticisms, and in his telling of the story Mr. Field has the merit of being coherent.

In the first scene we make acquaintance with the hard-up Baron (Cinderella's father) and his two Ugly Daughters and the Prince Charming, who is travelling incognito; there is the usual love-making and an invitation to the ball, which, thanks to the Fairy, Cinderella attends in a fairy coach, blazing with electric lights. In the orthodox way, the Prince finds the glass slipper lost by Cinderella in her flight, and, after its fair owner is traced, all ends happily. Such is the brief outline of the story, which is told amidst surroundings both artistic and genuinely funny; certainly from a scenic point of view we question if anything equally as artistic or elaborate has ever been presented at this theatre, and the artists, Messrs. Dodsworth, Spencer, and Hemsley, are to be congratulated on the skill displayed in at least five of twelve scenes required for the production, namely, The Forest Glade, The Plains of Auvergne, The Reception Room, The Ball-Room, and the Palace Gardens; they are charming conceptions, rich in tone and colouring and bold and striking in design. The dresses, too, are very beautiful; the colours and designs are effective and in perfect harmony, and here, too, Mr. Laidler's exquisite taste is strongly in evidence. There are features in the production, in the way of groupings and patriotic tableaux, which are particularly effective, and then there is Mr. Laidler's troupe of smart juveniles, always a speciality in his pantomimes, who figure as "Charlie Chaplins," also in a pretty "Santa Claus" scene, a "Hicki Hoy" ballet, and as Pierrots.

Fun is the prevailing element, of course, and the excellent company of comedians keep it going from first to last. Mr. Walter Lupton has selected and arranged the excellent music, and we have a distinct sign of the times in Miss Barbara Allison as "stage manageress," to whom we are to presume a large amount of credit for the success of the initial performance is due. Miss Minnie Myrle is the very charming Fairy Sunshine, and her fine voice is heard to advantage in "Take me back to your heart once again" and "Sympathy." Miss René Ralph is an ideal Prince Charming, and her success was instantaneous. She scored with her songs "All the boys in khaki get the nice girls," "Farewell, my soldier lad," "The lady workers," "My Honolulu girl," and in a chorus with the children. Mr. Walter Amner exhibits a keen sense of humour as Baron Harduppe, his quaintness being irresistible. Muriel and Clementina, the Ugly Daughters, are Messrs. Ben Obo and Jim Obo respectively, and very funny and energetic they are; and Messrs. Clem Milton and Hal Milton create much laughter as the Broker's Men, viz., Sam and Dick Spottem, and give a clever turn on roller skates. Miss Lizzie Primmer is bright and animated as the valet, Dandini, and her "Michael Cassidy" song goes well; Dollie Dimple is daintily played by Miss Goldie Collins, who scored in a good rag-time song and dance. Mr. Percy Cahill is a thoroughly quaint and entertaining comedian who is nimble, dances cleverly, and who, as Billy Buttons, introduces a capital "gag," viz., "About what time?" and sings humorously "I'm in love." As Cinderella Miss Empsie Bowman's grace and charm won her audience, and she scored with her songs "Images" and "Dancing 'neath the Irish moon," and also in her duets with Miss Ralph and Mr. Cahill.

"GOODY TWO SHOES" AT BRISTOL.

Produced at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Thursday evening, "Goody Two Shoes" is the forty-ninth pantomime since the opening of the theatre in 1867. The story naturally deals with the magic shoes presented by the Fairy Lightheart to Goody, and the endeavours of the Demon Discontent to obtain them.

Miss Daisy Dormer is a charming principal girl. She is very pleasing as the light-hearted and lovable Goody, and the change in her character after the toes of her shoes is cleverly shown. Miss Dormer both sings and dances well, and all her numbers were greatly appreciated, namely "Boys in khaki," "What you have never had you never miss," "You were the first to teach me how to love," and her duets with other principals.

Miss Sybil Arundale makes an excellent part of Alan, a principal boy with plenty of go in him, but who at the same time has an air of refinement. Miss Arundale, who speaks her lines with admirable clearness and effect, dances well, and her excellent voice does full justice to her songs, "When the Angelus is ringing," "Just a little bit of sunshine," and "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag."

Mr. Horace Mills presents a quaint study of Mrs. Tutt. The peculiarities of Goody's mother are strongly marked, but Mr. Mills never clowns, and his flow of really amusing patter always tells. Mr. Mills' one song, "A little bit of what you fancy does you good," went well on Thursday evening. Mr. Lupino Lane is not only an exceptionally clever comedian, but a fine dancer, acrobat, and tumbler, the latter qualifications adding considerably to his otherwise really good performance of Clarence. All Mr. Lupino Lane's work is neatly done, and he made a decided success with "Charlie Chaplin walk" song, and his really funny duet with Mr. Mills, "Sprinkle me with kisses." Miss Dorothy Moulton, as the Fairy Lightheart, speaks her lines well, and quite "looks" the part. In addition to this, she is a charming vocalist, with a pleasing, sympathetic voice, which enables her to do full justice to her songs, "Show me the way to your heart," and "A little love, a little kiss."

Mr. Ian Alexander makes an imposing Demon Discontent; he speaks his lines well, and is an accomplished vocalist. Miss Margaret Kean and Miss Dolly Booth both do good work as Ronnie, the Mayor's son, and Zoe, Zoraster's daughter, Miss Kean singing effectively and Miss Booth presenting a pleasing dance. Other parts are very capably taken by Miss Doris Lind, Mr. Laurence Caird, Mr. C. Roper Lane, and Mr Sam Walsh. Some pretty dances and processions are introduced, the ballet being admirably trained by Mme. Phillipini. Suitable and pleasing music has been arranged, selected, and composed by Mr. G. R. Chapman, and some special numbers are by Henri Jaxon and George Hart. The orchestra has been augmented, and it is ably conducted by Mr. G. R. Chapman.

Charming scenery has been painted by Messrs. D. G. Hall and R. C. Oldham, perhaps the most imposing of the many sets being the Village of Blossomville in May-time, thus giving the opportunity of introducing a dainty flower ballet. The book is written by E. C. Oldham. The entire pantomime was produced under the stage direction of Mr. A. E. Dodson, and the personal supervision of Mrs. Janet Macready Chute and Mr. John Hart.

There was an excellent attendance on the opening night, and the performance went with remarkable smoothness, the ladies of the company being presented with many floral offerings.

"ALADDIN" AT CHELTENHAM.

Mr. Redford's instinct seldom errs, especially in the matter of pantomime, and in securing the production of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's "Aladdin" for the Opera House, on Boxing Day, he again made a winning hit. From the rise of the curtain to its fall there was never any doubt as to the success of the production. The book, by Mr. Fred Bowyer, the music by Mr. J. Ellis Midgley, and the stage management in the responsible hands of Mr. E. R. Beaumont, were all that could be desired. The splendid, youthful Miss Lillie Lassah, a beau-ideal principal boy, was a great success, her remarkable voice being heard to the best advantage. Miss Mona Helene as the Princess Badrouldadour possesses a natural daintiness that captured all hearts. Her performance was altogether charming, and her singing, sweetness itself, in solo or duet, particularly in "You were the first girl to teach me to love," with Aladdin. A fine trio of laughter-makers are Mr. Will Judge, a capital Dame, Mr. E. Statham Staples, excruciatingly funny as Wishee-Washee, and Mr. Gibb McLaughlin, as the sinister Abanazar. The Widow Twankey has never had such a versatile and pleasing a portrayal as that given by Mr. Judge. Messrs. Davis and Deane as Bobee and Bobi, of the Pekin police, were always to the fore (and aft). Their comicalities were original, clever, and acceptable.

Mr. Frank Wood was eminently satisfying as the Emperor; and as the Vizier Mr. Arthur Wright did well. Miss Felicia Firman was a dashing Prince Pekoe, singing capably "Mr. Conductor," prettily seconded by Miss Lily Richotti as Pitti Sing.

The musical items are one of the strongest features of the pantomime, and quite make up for any slight lack of ballet. Prettier dancing could not be wished for than that provided by the Sisters Oxlee. The plums of the piece are awarded to Miss Lassah as Aladdin. Her rendering of "Private Machael Cassidy" fetched the house down, and she was just as good in "Keep the home fires burning." "The way to Paradise" was entrusted to Miss Gertie Orchard, who sang and acted delightfully as the Fairy Queen.

Abanazar (Mr. McLaughlin), whose elocution was remarkably good, sang "Mr. Bottomley, John Bull," with much verve, and his song, "Let the good work go on," caught on also. Widow Twankey sang little, but did it well, chiefly in "Daisy from the country." Mr. J. Ellis Midgley is to be congratulated on the musical side of the production.

The story runs through seven scenes, many of which displayed very finished stagecraft. The lighting and water effects in the Magic Cave when the fairy fountain is playing presents a series of beautiful colour schemes, and the great Throne Room finale is a brilliant spectacle, in which the fascinating costumes are displayed to the fullest advantage. The enthusiasm of a crowded house gave unmistakable testimony as to its opinion of the performance, and a triumphant success is assured—the reward of conscientious good work.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard, who personally supervised the opening performance, must have been particularly well gratified by the show and its reception. It will run in Cheltenham for twelve nights and eight matinées.

"GOODY TWO SHOES" AT DERBY.

The pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Derby, this year is "Goody Two Shoes," produced by Mr. Harry Levaine. In the title-rôle Miss Rita Moya figures with acceptable grace, and her songs, "You were the first one to teach me to love," and "What you've never had you never miss," are charmingly rendered. As principal boy, Miss Florrie Curran, in the part of Robin Goodfellow, is well received, and her singing and dancing is duly appreciated. The songs allotted to her are "Fall in" and "Show me the way to your heart."

Mr. Harry Levaine, who plays the Dame, is a clever comedian, and his assumption is an original one. He sings his popular music hall number, "Man, man, man," and joins in an amusing burlesque duet, "I was dreaming of you last night," with Mr. Horace Wyatt, who undertakes the rôle of Squire Graball. His efforts to amuse are highly successful, and he possesses a fine bass-baritone voice. Mr. Billy Glenn, who plays Muggins, is distinctly funny, and his chief song is "It's lovely to be in love." Talberto and Douglas, the broker's men, are excellent fun makers, and their equilibristic act and knockabout business is smart, clean, and clever. Sisters Sylvester, second boy and girl, are a dainty duo and expert dancers, and in their speciality act introduce four different kinds of dancing. Miss Annie Webster, as Fairy Crystal, and Mr. Fred Ingleby, the Demon Spider, appear to advantage in their respective parts. Other impersonations receive full justice. The pantomime is handsomely staged and tastefully dressed, and altogether there is every prospect of a highly successful run.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT DUBLIN.

The first performance of the successful pantomime, "Dick Whittington and his Cat," took place at the Gaiety on Monday, the house being crowded in every part. Mr. Fred Warden is to be congratulated on having secured such a clever all-round company. Miss Ouida Macdermott as Dick scored a signal success, and has already become a favourite. All her numbers are well chosen and given with excellent effect, amongst the most popular being "You were the first one to teach me to love," "You're Irish, too," and "Kentucky home." Miss Nellie Turner as Alice makes a winsome principal girl, her singing of "The Mississippi Cabaret" and "Ting-ling tra-la-la," being especially good. Miss Violet Romaine as the Fairy makes a distinct hit in her number, "Show me the way to your heart." As Idle Jack Mr. Tom Foy keeps the house convulsed with his drolleries, and he is well supported by Mr. Phil Lester, an ideal Dame, and Messrs. Gallagher and West. Mr. Ken Kendrick cleverly enacts the Cat, his antics causing much amusement. A special word of praise is due to the Marigny Troupe of Lady Dancers, who feature "The pyjama dance"—a very graceful one. The scenery is beautiful throughout, and the costumes handsome and artistic. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. W. S. Nabarro, the popular Gaiety conductor. A successful run is assured.

"LITTLE BOY BLUE" AT EDINBURGH.

The Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, was crowded with an enthusiastic audience last Thursday evening, when the pantomime, "Little Boy Blue," was produced under the skilful supervision of Mr. Geo. T. Minshull, Managing Director of the Howard and Wyndham Co., Ltd. Mr. J. James Hewson's libretto may best be described by a familiar quotation from George Canning's "Knife-Grinder"; but the book contains many good lines, and the scenes are so bright and so bustling that the attention is never allowed to flag for an instant, from first to last. The pantomime is played twice nightly, and it runs merrily without a break for the duration of two hours, which seem very short hours indeed. Miss Pearl Grey, the principal boy, who appears in the title-rôle, is a prepossessing young actress, dowered with grace, and gifted with a voice of delightful quality. She made a conspicuous success with her expressive rendering of "My Kentucky home," "All the boys in khaki get the nice girls," and "Till the boys come home," and was loudly recalled after each interpretation. Miss Haidee de Rance is a charming Miss Muffet, who adds to her powers as an accomplished vocalist, abilities of no mean order as a violiniste. In a pleasing interlude in Scene 6, which is one of the features of the entertainment, Miss de Rance called forth hearty applause by her singing "Blue eyes," to her violin accompaniment. The audience was not content until she had responded by playing a Scottish selection. The Brothers Egbert are the chief providers of fun, and they bring to their task all the energy and humour for which they are so justly celebrated. Their drollery and vigour are of the greatest service to the pantomime. All their business goes with a "vim," and in a clever mechanical scene, On board "The Skipping Sardine," the actors' broad farce and smart acrobatism brought down the house.

Mr. Jack Straw, in the Dame's part, Queen Naganniggle, showed an agreeable style of acting that never descended into vulgarity, and a duet, "I do like living in Scotland," besprinkled with local allusions, sung with Mr. Purslow, was very popular. Mr Tom Purslow played Broadbeam in a breezy manner, and made a hit with a travesty of "Il Bacio," in which he dexterously introduced two distinct voices. Miss Violet Egbert is a dainty Little Bo-Peep, and dances with notable grace. There are special dances given by the Murrattis, whose exhibition of pirouette and gymnastic dances are remarkable examples of the terpsichorean art, and C. Kingsley's Ballet Troupe are seen to great advantage in the scenes in which they appear. The scenery, by Mr. Stafford Hall, Mr. Stanley Shuter and others, is extremely effective. Special mention may be made of Mr. Hall's The Emporium, and The Palace Gardens, in the former of which a procession of ladies in dresses of various periods forms a very pretty spectacle. The music, arranged by Mr. E. J. Rogers, the talented leader of the orchestra, is throughout tuneful and appropriate. Mr. Wm. Whitehead ministers in his courteous, unassuming way to the comfort of the patrons of the house.

The members of the company were frequently recalled on the opening night, and the ladies of the cast had many beautiful bouquets given to them during the evening. The applause was frequent and unstinted, and at the fall of the curtain Mr. Minshull, in response to loud calls, bowed his acknowledgments of the appreciation of the audience.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT IPSWICH.

Miss Lena Stanton's Christmas pantomime of "Robinson Crusoe," produced at a matinée on Monday, was an unqualified success. It is divided into nine scenes and two tableaux. The first is the old port of Hull, picturesque and quaint, the second set scene is the deck of the Lucky Lobster, after the wreck of which vessel follows an excellent tableau of Crusoe on the raft. This brings us to the interval. The second act opens with sea-shore on the Isle of Palms, a charming bit of tropical scenery. The next set is the forest, with Crusoe's hut, and finally Crusoe's Palace of Delight.

Miss Lena Stanton, as Robinson Crusoe, deserves high praise, her fine physique and rich contralto voice, whether in solo or duet, show at once the accomplished musician and actress, and Miss Masie Lynne, as Polly Perkins, well seconds her efforts. Miss Ethel Robertson, as Captain Billie Taylor, looks charming. Mr. Bobbie Gray, as King Kopem, is a great hit, and his fine baritone voice and finished singing is one of the charms of the performance. Mr. Cliff H. Astley gets lots of fun, genuine and harmless, from the part of Mrs. Crusoe, and Little Toss, as her son Jock, is a fine Scotch Laddie, and sings and dances delightfully. Mr. Willie Westwood is a good Friday, and Mr. Frank Shephard is an active and versatile Willie Atkins, with the Two Fimans as his assistants.

The Hullo Girls are special vocalists and brilliant dancers, and Valerie and West also score in the same lines. The Eadingall Trio are also included, and there is a large chorus of vocalists and dancers. The scenery is excellent. The dresses throughout are of a lavish description, the various tableaux being exquisitely arranged, and the colours harmoniously blended. The musical director is Mr. Arthur Williams, and the manager Mr. Vic Verney, who are to be congratulated on an excellent show. At the Lyceum on Monday at the matinée and both evening performances, money was turned away.

"OLD KING COLE" AT LEEDS.

On Christmas Eve Mr. John Hart produced his 21st pantomime at the Grand, Leeds. "Old King Cole" is the title chosen, and although history does not tell us much about this monarch, one fact is outstanding, and that is that he was "a merry old soul," and Mr. R. C. Oldham, the author of the book, has taken this strongly to heart, and in the person of Shaun Glenville we get a strong wave of merriment throughout twelve delightful scenes.

Mr. Oldham, as well as being responsible for the book, has painted the greater part of the scenery, of which there are some artistic efforts, including the ravine where the Demon and Fairy part company, the Palace Gardens, the Drop Inn, the Mountain of Ice, the yacht scene, and the Hall of Sweets. The last scene will be a huge success with the children, everything dear to the childish palate is presented, including acid drops, butterscotch, chocolate, fondants, pastilles, nougat, ices, and crystallised fruits.

Miss Dorothy Ward, with her splendid voice and personality, is everything that a principal boy should be, and displays a vitality that carries everyone with her. She is finely supported by Miss Gladys Guy as principal girl, and by Miss Dorothy Leigh as Rupert, Miss Doris Vesey as the Regent's Daughter, and Miss Hilda Eager as the Fairy. Mr. Shaun Glenville at the head of the comedians infuses the right spirit of merriment into the part of King Cole, the Pretender, and nothing flags whilst he is on the stage. Mr. W. H. Irving makes a good Dame, whilst Fred Leslie and Ernest Selig, as companions in crime, are very funny. Messrs. Forrester Harvey, Ernest Spalding, Queen and Le Brun, and John Morley all work hard for the success of the show. The successful songs are Shaun Glenville's "Is there anybody Irish here?" "If you come from Yorkshire," "All the boys in khaki," "Till the boys come home," "Over the hills to Mary," "When the Angelus is ringing," &c.

Mr. D. G. Hall has a share with Mr. Oldham in the delightful scenery, and Mr. Henri Jaxon, the conductor, has provided splendid incidental music and arrangements. The pantomime is produced by Mr. J. A. Howitt under the supervision of Mr. John Hart, and bids fair to be one of his greatest successes.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT LEEDS.

Mr. Francis Laidler on Thursday, Dec. 23, produced "Robinson Crusoe" at the Royal, Leeds, with much success. The book has been specially written by Arthur W. Field, and special incidental music, etc., has been composed and arranged by Thos. A. Coomer. Mr. Gregory Croke has ably assisted Mr. Laidler in the production. The scenery is possibly more effective than any previous pantomime, and Messrs. Dodsworth and Spenser and McCulloche, Ltd., are responsible for it. Special mention should be made of the Village of Merryvale, the Port, the Mermaid Cave, the Island of Golden Palms, and the King's Palace.

Coming to the principals, it is impossible to speak too highly of Miss Mona Vivian as Robinson Crusoe. She works extremely hard, and her dancing is a feature of the pantomime. Everything she does is artistic. The audience are in a continual ripple when Reg. Bolton, the Billy Crusoe, is in, for he is a true comedian and gets his points without any forcing or exaggeration. Miss Eileen Desmond is also very good as Polly Perkins. The possessor of a lovely voice, she makes the utmost of every opportunity offered. Others who do invaluable work are Bert Byrne as Mrs. Crusoe, Norman H. Lee as Will Atkins, Henry Loman as Captain Mainmast, William Lowe as Ben Bobstay, and Miss Mary O'Hara as the Fairy Queen. Quite a youngster, Miss O'Hara spoke the prologue and the remainder of her lines with ease and grace. The principal songs are "Get that girl for me," "Back to Dixie," and "The Butterfly," sung by Miss Mona Vivian, "Private Cassidy, V.C.," sung by Reg. Bolton, "I'm in love," sung by Bert Byrne, "When the boys come home," sung by Eileen Desmond, and "All the boys in khaki," sung by Francis Laidler's Little Sunbeams, who have a great share in the success of the pantomime.

"PUSS IN BOOTS" AT LIVERPOOL.

The pantomime of "Puss in Boots" is the fifth that has been given by Mr. W. W. Kelly since he took control of the Liverpool Shakespeare Theatre. On this occasion the work is played twice nightly by arrangement with Messrs. Milton Bode and C. St. John Denton; and it must be said that within the short space of a couple of hours a great deal of capital entertainment is provided. Money was turned away on Monday, when three crowded audiences filled the theatre, and thoroughly revelled in the fun set before them. Mr. John Humphries was Dame this time, and certainly proved a pillar of strength. He had a deal of new patter and gags, all of which he delivered with point and effect; while among his chief songs were "When Bill's gone and joined the Army" and "Someone should speak to her gently," both of which met with ready acceptance. In the book, which is by Mr. George M. Slater, are many local allusions, which go down very well; while the beauty chorus is large, and composed of many handsome girls who are richly gowned. Miss Winifred Ellice is the principal boy, a rôle which she fills in most dainty manner, while her singing of "Private Michael Cassidy, V.C." and "How Ireland grew" showed that she possessed gifts as a vocalist. Miss Winifred Giles charmingly undertook the rôle of the Princess; Miss Vera Scott was a spirited Prince; and other well-held parts were those of the Fairy Queen (Miss Olive Spark) and the Cat (Mr. Johnny Fuller). Mr. Humphries' efforts at laughter-raising were valuably helped by Messrs. Clifford Morgan (King), W. H. Kirby (Wiggles), and Drew and Alders (an excellent couple of knockabouts, whose rendering of a new version of "Old King Cole" earned great applause). There were a number of beautiful stage sets. The pantomime was presented in finished style by Mr. George Rowlands, and special music was provided by Messrs. Knight Pearce and Bertram Srawley.

"SINBAD THE SAILOR" AT LIVERPOOL.

The twentieth annual at the Royal Court, Liverpool, bears the title of "Sinbad the Sailor," and comes from the joint pens of Messrs. J. Hickory Wood and J. James Hewson. Very wisely the matter of plot appears to have been neglected; at all events, there is only just sufficient narrative to hold the several principal scenes together, the producers having apparently intended the leading comedians to have full freedom for the introduction of their special work. Altogether the pantomime has fun as its dominant note, which is struck at an early period of the proceedings and maintained throughout to the end.

Little Tich gives us a grotesque Sinbad, the many changes in his attire proving highly amusing, while his eccentricities and gestures sometimes convulse his audience with laughter. His representation of a pirate alone is one of the richest things he does. The gags and patter which flow freely from him as he commands the pirate ship are entirely admirable, and show what a talented and genuine comedian he is. Of course, several numbers fall to his lot, included among them being "Curiosity," and with Miss Margot Kelly the duet, "Sprinkle me with kisses" (Feldman). One of his main supporters is Mr. Tom D. Newell, whose Dame stands out a strong feature of the pantomime. That artiste has talent of a high order, and his work will undoubtedly add to the success of the pantomime. No matter what type of individual he undertakes—old woman, sailor, classical dancer, or lady tram conductor—Mr. Newell always has his audience with him, and they thoroughly appreciate his efforts to please them. One of his best songs is the tongue-twister, "Robert Wright wrote rhymes to Rose." Then, not far behind, we have George Jockley with a rasping, comical voice, and Le Sine, both smart comedians, who work hard to carry along the fun. Together they have a merry ditty, "The 5.15."

Whilst the humour is well provided, it must be said that the vocalism of the lady principals is not of exceptional merit, and in one or two instances there is something to be desired. Miss Ivey Latimer, as the leading boy, acquits herself with credit, and sings with taste and judgment several pieces, including, with Miss Kelly, Feldman's "You great big wonderful baby," "Till the boys come home" (which found much favour, a transparent back cloth showing a soldier in the trenches, and back with his old parents), and "Show me the way to your heart." Miss Margot Kelly, principal girl, also pleased with "There's a silver lining," "Get your khaki on," and "Shadowland," with a chorus of little girls. Miss Bertha Verral (Princess) and Miss Mollie Hanbury (Prince) looked pretty in their respective parts; and Mlle. Lunina as the premier danseuse earned much applause.

Some capital scenes were the work of Mr. T. F. Dunn and Mr. Stanley Shuter; while Mr. Julien H. Wilson (the musical director of the theatre) provided much acceptable music. Thanks are due to Mr. Philip Hawley for his stage management, which contributed largely to the exceedingly smooth manner in which the pantomime ran on its initial trial.

(*Continued on page 24.*)

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Dec. 27, HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD. Next Week, VACANT.

"DON'T TEMPT ME!" AT FINSBURY PARK.

There was a good deal of disappointment experienced at Finsbury Park on Boxing Day evening, in consequence of a large number of North London holiday-makers finding there was no accommodation for them in the capacious Empire at either the first or second house. The "musical comedy mixture" entitled "Don't Tempt Me!" presented by Mr. Sidney Burns and company, formed a very strong attraction in an exceptionally bright holiday programme. The fact that the book and lyrics are by Mr. George Arthurs, with music by Mr. Louis Jerome, is a sufficient guarantee of the quality of an important part of a production which gave unqualified delight to the closely-packed audiences. In every other respect "Don't Tempt Me!" reached the very highest level of excellence. It would not be easy to discover a comedian better fitted for the rôle of Peter Perkin than Mr. George Goodfellow, whose quiet humour is of the right brand. He and Miss Jennie Gregson, the smart representative of Popsie Lang, score in their duets "South-West and South-East," "How to be a lady," and "Nursery rhymes," each of these being greeted with much applause. "The girl who clicked," sung by Miss Gregson and chorus, is a particularly good number. Miss Mabel Manville is charming in her embodiment of Sylvia and Lady Patricia, while Mr. Guy Vivian as Horace Perkin is also well placed, this couple giving a delightful rendering of "There's a little farm in Devon," a picture of the pretty rural retreat being shown at the back. "The girl of my dreams" is a taking ballad sung by Miss Manville and the chorus. Other ladies who are successful in their respective impersonations include Miss Mabel Mavis, Miss Noreen Craigie, Miss Vida Vivienne, and Miss Mollie Ramsey. Mr. Joe Tate as good as Septimus Henry, and other parts are entrusted to Messrs. Tom Talbot and Henry James with satisfactory results, the last two mentioned, with Messrs. Goodfellow and Vivian, forming the tuneful "Harmony Hall" Glee Quartette. Mention must also be made of the Beauty Chorus, whose services throughout are of the greatest value. The production is staged by Mr. Gus Sohlke, and Mr. Fred Allwood is the efficient musical director.

Other artistes appearing this week include Mr. Will Van Allen, the tramp musical comedian, who varies his clever instrumental selections by telling funny stories. The Six Ceylons, in "Fun in an Opium Den," give a smart performance, the dwarf comedian of the troupe causing much laughter. Miss Maggie Benson, comedienne, is applauded for her excellent rendering of songs; and Mr. Chas. Ulrick continues to sustain his reputation as the "Barrel King," his pedalion dexterity receiving generous recognition.

BEN TAYLOR and BONNY BROWNING
WITH
"THIS IS THE LIFE."
This Week:
HIPPO., SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

Mr. James Chapman, the manager of the Theatre Royal, Smethwick, is having his first complimentary benefit on Wednesday next, Jan. 5.

A welcome addition to the Elephant and Castle pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," is Minnie Elsie, who makes a charming dusky Princess. There is one scene, full of bright colour and quite the most brilliant of all, in which Miss Elsie's sweet voice is heard to advantage in a pretty little number specially written for her by Lawrence Wright, entitled "The valley of the moon."

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD" AT EAST HAM.

Produced on Boxing Day.

The annual at the East Ham Palace will certainly maintain the traditions of that popular place, for the enterprising Mr. John M. Hay has provided a pantomime which will appeal to young and old, especially the former. "Red Riding Hood" has been arranged by Mr. Fred Bowyer, and the music is by Mr. Radcliffe Hawley. The whole production is bright and brisk, full of movement, and has several novelties which will meet with favour. All the best and latest songs are introduced effectively, and there are lots of new gags and tricks.

Miss Daisy Bartholomew, handsome, neat, and accomplished, infuses quite the right dash into her embodiment of Boy Blue, showing excellent adaptability to each situation as it comes along; While as Miss Muffet, Miss Violet Bartholomew has every essential qualification of cleverness and refinement, not the least important being the possession of a very good singing voice. Miss Daisy Bartholomew delightfully renders "What you never had, you never miss," and "Keep the home fires burning," but the greatest success is achieved in her duets with Miss Violet Bartholomew, entitled "That dreamy lullaby" and "You were the first one to teach me to love." Miss Dorina Reed is an exceedingly sweet Red Riding Hood, and, although she has little to do, looks the part of the simple, quiet, confiding child. She possesses a pretty voice, and sings "Good-bye, Virginia," excellently. Miss Blanche Pearl is a handsome Fairy Queen, and her rendering of "Somebody knows, somebody cares," fairly brings the "house down." Two clever and pretty children, Misses Doris and Elsie Pickford, play Jack and Jill respectively, forming a very pleasant central feature of the action. Their singing of "What do we care, we two," is much enjoyed, as is also their dancing.

Comedy is provided in abundance, the Dame Trot of Mr. Harvey White being excruciatingly funny. As Tweedledum and Tweedledee, Messrs. Allen and Preston have unlimited opportunities of causing uncontrollable mirth. Mr. T. P. Wilfred, as the Wolf, gives a splendid account of himself, and it is a pity that he has not more opportunity of using his powerful bass voice. The house goes into raptures over his song, "The voice of the storm." Mr. Geo. F. Storey renders sterling services with a droll portrayal of the Squire. He is also very funny as the shopkeeper in the village store scene. The scenery is above the average, some exquisite sets, "The Glade," "The Squire's House," and "The Palace," having been painted. There is a beautifully gowned and really excellent chorus. The orchestra is in the capable hands of Mr. Radcliffe Hawley, who entertained the audience during a change of scenes with a delightful rendering of "Two Bright Eyes."

GOLDER'S GREEN HIPPODROME.

The management here is evidently intent on reaping as much as possible of the Christmas harvest, for the star bill arranged for the evening programme, and the excellent afternoon performances (which we notice elsewhere), should show good box-office results. The audience on Boxing night was obviously out for fun, and the galaxy of talent gave it plenty of opportunity to indulge its pleasure. One of the most favoured turns was Jock Whiteford's. His imitation of the Scottish lad watching his team at a football match is a perfect gem of first-class acting coupled with real observation. That eccentric comedienne, Nellie Wallace, held up the bill for some minutes after her two songs, "Never part with anything" and "He kissed me when he left me," and it was only when informed that she had to be at the Holborn in twenty minutes that the audience allowed the next turn to appear. As that happened to be the Three Mahers, perfect satisfaction was soon restored. The very versatile performance by these clever people was thoroughly appreciated. The last dance by the two male Mahers is a splendid exhibition of clever footing and fooling. Vernon Watson, who was working another hall as well, arrived late, and when an eager and impatient audience demanded his appearance, the management explained to its patrons that a telephone message had informed them that his car had broken down on the way. But we waited on, and soon our patience was rewarded. Vernon Watson appeared, or it would be as true to say that Frank Tinney (whose continued presence in America is compensated for by Vernon Watson here), George Formby, Fred Emney, and Harry Champion deputised for him, for his imitations of these artistes are as near as it is possible to get to the originals. On the musical side, Orpheus gave a thoroughly good turn, which included some popular airs on the post-horn; and Mooney and Holbein blended some excellent ragtime singing and dancing with piano and concertina playing. Their song, "You can't get away from it," is a good topical number, and brought down the house. The Majors introduced some novel business into their dressing-room scene, in which a good deal of humour is well mingled with a certain amount of pathos. Then there was Herbert Rule, whose plea for a chorus "not in ragtime," in which he is so well assisted by a friend in the box, evidently echoed a feeling in the hearts of the audience.

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As HORACE in "DON'T TEMPT ME!"
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A SUCCESS
In SYDNEY BURNS' Colossal Success
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PLAYHOUSE Revue, "SAMPLES."
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THE CALL.

The attached verses, by Mr. Edward Sass, were recited in a beautiful manner at the recent Australian matinée at His Majesty's Theatre by Miss Alice Crawford (herself an Australian). As other actors and actresses might be glad to recite them to Australian soldiers in different parts of the country, we have pleasure in giving them the publicity of our columns.

The Call came under the Southern Seas
And it flung itself on shore;
And crashed its way o'er the pale gum trees,
Like a blazing meteor!
The Cities caught it and flashed the tale
To the Bush and the Ranges far;
Where the Boundary Riders keep the trail,
And the lone Frontiersmen are.
"Help for the old She-lion-at home,
Who has stood for a thousand years
On guard for a freer, grander Rome—
The Rome of two Hemispheres!"
And or ever a trumpet found its tongue,
Or a drummer his trade could ply,
Australian throats to Australians flung
The old Australian cry—
COO-EE!!

They heard it ring in the Murchison—
They heard it in Moreton Bay;
From Torres Strait it was echoed on
To the Tasman Ocean spray!
It wakened the stones of Collins Street
And it swept around Wynyard Square—
'Twas heard in the House where the Talkers meet,
And the Gullies where talk is rare.
It opened the hearts of the Millionaires
In their leather-appointed Club,
And it drew foul oaths that were strong men's pray'rs
Way out in the Mallee Scrub.
Squatter and Shearer, and Sundowner too—
Miner and Ranker and all;
Rouseabout, Cornstalk, and wild Jackaroo
Came out at the Bushman's call—
COO-EE!!

"There's a Wild Beast loose in the Belgian fields!"
The Call to Australia said;
"Where the old man's shot as he feebly yields,
Where the women are worse than dead!
Where the babes are flung in the shambles' reek,
'Mid the drunkard's bestial yell,
In the craven fear they might live to speak
Of the deeds that are damned to Hell!"
"Enough!" was the Southern man's reply—
"Give me a gun!" he cried,
"And a thousand murderers shall die
"For every babe that died!"
And his shout rolled over the North and West,
To the Mother of all his kin;
From a bursting heart and a heaving chest—
"We're with you! Australia's in!!"
COO-EE!!

There's many a lad in the sands of Nile
Who will cross the Bight no more;
There's many a gap in the rank and file
On the Turk's accursed shore!
But there's many and many and many a lad
Will be in at the reckoning day
When the church bells ring for the tidings glad
Of the price the Huns must pay.
And the great grey ships of the conquered sea
Shall carry the Anzacs Home
To the Southern Cross and the She-oak tree,
And the purple Austral gloam.
Squatter and Shearer and Sundowner too,
Miner and Banker and all;
Rouseabout, Cornstalk, and wild Jackaroo
Shall hear the Australian call—
COO-EEE!!!
EDWARD SASS.

Queen Alexandra, having expressed a wish to see "L'Enfant Prodigue" again, a matinée was arranged at His Majesty's on Wednesday last at 48 hours' notice. Lady Tree received Queen Alexandra, who was accompanied by Princess Victoria and the Princess Royal. There was a large audience, among whom wounded soldiers figured.

[Several Notices of Pantomimes and Productions are held over till next week.]

MESSRS. CRAMER AND CO.

SONGS, DANCES, AND A NEW TUTOR.

"Good wine needs no bush," and Claude Arundale's "Five Short Humorous Songs," published by Messrs. Cramer and Co., need no fillip to aid their popularity. Enough that they are being sung by Miss Margaret Cooper, who is making a special feature of two of them, "My mother says that angels" and "Lucky dog." The first is a captivating "baby-talk" ditty, which sets forth the reasoning out in the infant mind of problems connected with the beings who "live up in the sky," that "got no bodies," and "get no dindin same as we." The setting expresses happily the artless naïvete of the words. "Lucky dog" tells about a handsome "he" who is "petted, kissed and cuddled" in season and out of season, by a girl of twenty-four. To spare our blushes it is announced in the last line that the "lucky dog" is of the Pomeranian brand. Both melody and accompaniment are piquantly attractive.

Of the three remaining songs "Three little boys I knew" (of which there is also a gentleman's version dealing with girls), tells of a couple of love affairs that went the way of all such things, and of another that came to stay; "The two rats" is a quaint little story of the uncertain fate that attends on seekers after the succulent cheese-rind; and "Cupid" treats quizzically of the little chap who, "except for wings, wears no things," and is so far behind the times in other matters, too, that he still shoots at us with arrows. All are very prettily and daintily set to appropriate music.

The mazurka runs the waltz closely in the race for popularity, especially during the festive season. Also from the pen of Claude Arundale comes the "Mazurka Russe," an attractive piece with plenty of life and melodic brilliance about it. It is not at all difficult to play, nor is Evelyn Sharpe's "Powder and Puff" gavotte, which possesses a daintiness and grace in keeping with its name. The "Scherzando" section is particularly suggestive of the playful wiles of sweet seventeen. The same composer has also written a song called "The Fountain," a delightfully bright setting for words which tell of the dancing waters that, like Tennyson's brook, flow on for ever, while our lives, "like the roses, too soon pass away." Melody and accompaniment reflect the gleams and ripples of the sunlit stream.

Sentiment and music are alike pleasing of Marjorie Broughton's "Love's secret," a song of quiet, sincere affection, very suitable for contralto or baritone. The voice is well supported by the accompaniment.

Ernest Newton's tutor for the pianoforte has the important merit of combining exercises on theory with the usual finger gymnastics. Particular attention, too, has been given to other essential points often neglected—phrasing and accent. The lessons are so simply arranged and follow each other so naturally that the little student is drawn along the paths of learning almost unconsciously. The studies and pieces are melodious and attractively arranged. The "tutor" is published at two shillings. A separate book of "Five-finger Exercises" in triplets, excellent for accent and rhythm as well as fingering, also by Ernest Newton, is issued at sixpence.

The Patriotic Publishing Co., in their series of "New Songs to Old Tunes," have issued a recruiting song, with words by Albert Osborne, arranged to the well-known melody of "Dixie," by Harold E. Watts. Both tonic-solfa and old notation settings are given. The song makes a good, stirring march, and the words are better than those of most patriotic ditties. It is published at threepence.

Dan Crew, the Scotch comedian, has been advised to rest for a few days by doctor's orders, owing to a severe cold.

Charles Grosman, of Grosman and Winters, who has already three brothers serving with the colours, offered himself for enlistment, but has been rejected by the military authorities as being medically unfit for service.

AMUSEMENTS IN SHEFFIELD.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—M. D., Mr. John Hart; G. M. & T., Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—On Boxing Day Messrs. George Grossmith and M. Laurillard's company began a return visit in the delightful comedy, "Potash and Perlmutter." There was a crowded and delighted audience.

EMPIRE.—M. D., Mr. Frank Allen; A. M., Mr. L. M. Stewart.—"The Redheads" began a return engagement on Monday with new songs and topics. The variety company includes the Sheffield favourite, Miss Victoria Monks, with new impersonations and old favourites; Zakaree and Brmakov, in a novel act; and the O'Gorman Brothers, comedy entertainers, &c.

HIPPODROME.—P., The Sheffield Hippodrome, Ltd.; R. M., Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mr. Harry Day's gorgeous burlesque in five scenes, "Merry Moments," is doing big business. Guest and Newlyn, the Van Dammes pictures, and Katie Butler are included in a generous programme.

TIVOLI.—P., The Tivoli, Ltd.; G. M., Mr. Windsor Stevenson. — Vaudeville, pictures, and Brennan's British Orchestra. Continuous programme.

Boors, The Chemists, 55 and 57, Snig-hill; 252-54, West-street, and 2, Regent-street; 599, Attercliffe-road; 7, Netherthorpe-place; 97, South-street; 34, 35, Spittal-hill; 284, Shalesmoor; 183, Attercliffe Common; 760-2-4, Attercliffe-road; 442, Abbeydale-road; 207, Broomhall-street; 6, High-street; 2-4, Duke St. Park; 514-18, London-road, Heeley Bridge; 202, South-street, Moor; 652, Staniforth-road, Darnall; 129, Newbould-lane, Broomhill; 3-5, Middlewood-road, Hillsbrough; 212, London-road.

MUSIC HALL LADIES' GUILD.

3, Newport House, Great Newport-st., W.C.

The secretary, on behalf of the above committee, begs to thank the following for donations towards our children's Christmas tree and treat:—Mr. Frank Allen, £1 1s.; Miss Ethel Cosgrove, £1 1s.; Miss Hetty King, 10s. 6d. (per Miss Maude Mortimer); Mrs. Nance Pounds, 5s.; Mr. Douglas Stuart, 5s.; Mrs. J. W. Hall, 3s.; Mr. Will Kelly, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Fruin, 2s.; Mr. Ernest Collins, 2s. 6d.

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IN A DELIGHTFUL POT POURRI OF
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Enormous Success, Principal Comedian, "HIGH 'XPLOSIVES."
This Week, HIPPODROME, PUTNEY. Next, PALACE, LEICESTER.
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SYDNEY MELFORD
Juvenile Lead,
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Revue.
This Week, COLISEUM, PORTSMOUTH.
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VERA DE MERSDEN
Principal Dancer and The Eastern Princess in
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This Week, LEWISHAM HIPPODROME.

HARRY CURWEN — Principal Comedian, Author-Producer.
IRELAND CUTTER — Starring RANDY ROUNDER.
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AMUSEMENTS IN LIVERPOOL.

ROYAL COURT.—P., Robert Arthur Theatres Co. Ltd.; M. D., Mr. F. W. Wyndham; A. M., Mr. Arthur Lawrence; Mus. D., Mr. Jullien H. Wilson.—Pantomime, "Sinbad the Sailor."

SHAKESPEARE.—L. & M., Mr. W. W. Kelly; A. M., Mr. Herbert M. King; Mus. D., Mr. Bertram Srawley.—Messrs. Milton Bode and C. St. John Denton's pantomime, "Puss in Boots."

ROTUNDA.—M., Mr. M. Montgomery; A. M., Mr. Fred Coles; Mus. D., Mr. Noel Vincent.—On Boxing Day Messrs. R. C. Jazon and M. Montgomery presented a pretty and amusing pantomime "Cinderella," which, played twice nightly, found considerable favour. The arrangement of the story was by Mr. Jazon, and the staging of a very attractive character. Among the principal fun makers were Messrs. J. C. Morris (the Baron), Sandy Powell and Partner (Court Bailiffs), the Arthur Gallimore Duo (Bodyguards), Leo Fields (Buttons), and the Snapshot Girls (Ugly Sisters). Miss Lilian Errol played Cinderella in neat style; Miss Joan Tate pleased generally as Prince Brilliant; Miss Vera Elmore was an exquisite Dandini;; Miss Hilda Elmore looked pretty as Dorothy, pet of the village; and Miss Hilda Nicholson represented the Fairy Godmother. Specialities were introduced by the Gallimore Duo and the Eight Ruby Girls.

REPERTORY.—P., Liverpool Repertory Theatre Co., Ltd.; B. M., Mr. T. J. Pigott; Mus. D., Mr. Joseph Smith.—The stage during the afternoons is occupied by Mr. Harold V. Neilson's play for children, "Brer Rabbit and Mr. Fox," from the Little Theatre, London, while the new revue, "Higgledy-Piggledy," is presented each evening by the Commonwealth Company.

KELLY'S.—L., Mr. W. W. Kelly; A. M., Mr. Reginald Grant; Mus. D., Mr. J. A. Gardner.—Another season of opera by the Moody-Manners company started here on Monday afternoon, and, judging by a large and enthusiastic attendance, there is every promise that last year's success will be repeated. The management of this popular house is certainly giving good value at exceedingly popular charges. "The Lily of Killarney," with Messrs. Fred Davies (Myles), Furness Williams (Hardress), Flintoff Moore (Danny Mann), Miss Winifred Burns (Ann Chute), Miss Lily Moody (Mrs. Cregan), and Miss Kitty Brownless (Eily), was given, the evening bill being filled with "The Bohemian Girl" (Mr. Frederick Hargrave and Miss Muriel Gough). Other works of the week were "Daughter of the Regiment," "Trovatore," "Martha," "Carmen" (Miss Phyllis Archibald), "Faust" (Miss May Murphy), and "Maritana." There were three matinées.

EMPIRE.—P., Moss' Empires, Ltd.; R. M., Mr. George Manners; Mus. D., Mr. George M. Saker.—There were three big crowds here on Monday, when Harry Day's revue, "Watch Your Step!" was submitted for the first time in Liverpool. The reception accorded to the work was hearty and well deserved. Included among the principal artistes were William Cromwell, Vardon and Perry, Fred Tooze, Jack Lennox, Kitty Curtis, Queenie Essex, Katie Yates, Cyril Bennett, Tim O'Connor, and Arthur James.

LYRIC.—L., Liverpool Lyric Theatre Co., Ltd.; M. D., Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Mus. D., Mons. R. Klasse.—The new London revue, "Going Strong," is the principal feature of the bill this week, and has proved very popular. Messrs. Ray Bros., Ltd., have sent a very good company, among the leading artistes being Doddy Earl and Percy Johnson, Josie Grasse, Violet Gower, Billy Lynn, and Betty Daly. The water spectacle, in which exhibitions of diving and trick swimming are given, was an attractive feature. The variety part of the programme was contributed to by Joe Almasio and Miss Yamina, with a juggling turn; Bert Eden, comedienne; the Buckland Boys, dancers; and Renee Ray, in artistic poses.

PAVILION.—P., Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; R. M., Mr. George F. Slatter; Mus. D., Mr. Fred Braham.—Here a second week is being put in by Mr. J. Lawrence Tiller's capital pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," which has proved highly successful. The leading artistes are Cissie Penrose (Crusoe), Mark Practice (Landlord), Olitzka Madison (Polly), Archie Graham (Atkins), Sidney Rennef (Cannibal King), Jimmy Pullen (Billy), and Ally Benson (Dame).

ROYAL PALACE.—M., Mr. M. Montgomery; R. M., Mr. Frank O'Toole; Mus. D., Mr. G. Dibbert.—The attraction this week is "The Girl He Left Behind Him," played by the stock company, which includes F. Melrose Millett, Bessie Thompson, Winnie Webster, John Burton, Leo Montgomery, Lester Barrington, and Harry Tresham.

OLYMPIA.—P., Moss' Empires, Ltd.; A. M., Mr. E. W. James; Asst. M., Mr. D. Casey; Mus. D., Mr. Albert Moore.—Another big circus is to be the attraction at this popular house during the next two months, and judging by the manner in which it was greeted on Monday by packed audiences, there is every reason to believe that last year's enormous success will be repeated. One of the big features this time is the Coldstream Guards' Band, under the direction of Captain J. Mackenzie Rogan, M.V.O., and their playing of patriotic airs is bound to be appreciated. The variety programme is contributed to by star acts from the Allied countries, all of them being particularly fine, and much above the average, consequently a good show is assured. One of the principal turns is that provided by Petite Nina's motor-cycling sea lions, which display remarkable training in the matter of balance; another fine animal turn is given by Rossi's musical elephants; then Boganny's Lunatic Bakers infuse an immense amount of fun into the entertainment; and more laughter follows the antics of Cliff Berzac and his jackass family. That artiste also shows some highly-trained ponies. A number of splendid Russian horses, in charge of Miss Froken Madigan, are much admired; Scott's comedy collies go through an intelligent turn; the Benedetti Bros., musical clowns, have a cordial re-welcome; and also in the list are Silly and Bonny, with their cats; and Marie, a dainty little equestrienne. The ring clowns are Funny Fred and Simple Willie.

HIPPODROME.—M. D., Mr. Walter de Frece; R. M., Mr. Walter Hassan; Mus. D., Mr. Frank Stokes.—Pantomime is here in the shape of "Aladdin," sent by Messrs. Dottridge and Longden. It is a well-constructed version and very picturesque, while the leading artistes are Carlton, Harry Nelson, Vera Hind, Lily Lonsdale, the Four Minums, Mlle. Dubois Troupe, and the Gems.

EMPIRE, GARSTON.—P., Garston Empire and Picture Theatre, Ltd.; M. & L., Mr. Charles H. Locke; Mus. D., Mr. H. Watkinson.—There are some interesting pictures shown here this week, in addition to which the following artistes appear:—George Prince, comedian; the Trinity Trio, in a refined musical and vocal act; Maude Courtenay and Mr. C., with songs and stories; and Evelyn and Clayton, eccentric acrobats.

Boors, The Chemists, Boots' Corner, Churchstreet; 11 and 13, London-road; 1, Leece-street; 203, Scotland-road; 8, West Darby-road; 235, Park-road, 113, Lodge-lane; 79, Wavertree-road; Prudential Buildings, Dale-street; 45 to 47, Lord-street.

AMUSEMENTS IN BIRMINGHAM.

PRINCE OF WALES.—P., The Prince of Wales Theatre (Birmingham), Ltd.; M. D.s, Messrs. J. F. Graham and John Hart; B. M., Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Once nightly: Mr. Robert Courtneidge's new musical comedy, "Vivien." Full production notice will appear next week.

BORDESLEY PALACE. — P., Moss' Empires, Ltd.; L., Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.—Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley's pantomime, "Dick Whittington." Production notice will appear next week.

ASTON THEATRE ROYAL.—L., Mr. Chas. Barnard; M., Mr. Lewis Chapman.—Twice nightly: Mr. Will A. Glaze's company in "John Raymond's Daughter." In the cast are Betty Seymour, H. Ryeland-Leigh, Kenneth Gordon, Chas. Kean, Fred M. Hood, George Gormley, T. A. Wilner, Madge Heyton, and Elsie W. Hemmings.

EMPIRE.—P., Moss' Empires, Ltd.; A. M., Mr. Walter Bellianus; Mus. D., Mr. J. Clegg.—Twice nightly: Chas. Austin and company in "Parker on the Panel"; Ruby Heyl, contralto vocalist; Freddie Hackin, in a quick-change scena, "All Change"; Chas. Mildare, silleur; Harry Herbert, comedian; Vardell Bros., American athletes; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, comedy cyclists; Graham Moffat's company of Scottish players in "The Concealed Bed."

GRAND.—P., Moss' Empires, Ltd.; A. M., Mr. Crossley Taylor; M. D., Mr. Chas. Bye.—Harry M. Vernon and company in "The Case of Johnny Walker," featuring James Carew; Marie Dainton in new numbers; Sammy Shields, Scotch comedian; Christie Duo, eccentric dancers; Darrell and Conway, comedy duo; Five Whartons, clever acrobats; and Romanesca Quartette, musical entertainers.

ASTON HIPPODROME.—P., Aston Hippodrome Co., Ltd.; M. D., Mr. S. T. Newsome; A. M., Mr. F. G. Coward; Mus. D., Mr. H. Jackson.—Betty Barclay and a Baritone in new numbers; Kay and his aeroplane; Tom E. Hughes, comedian; Bryden and Wilson, comedy musicians; Jackson Brothers, comedy acrobats; Peter, Peggy, and Pearl, juvenile entertainers.

GAIETY.—P., Mr. B. Kennedy; A. M., Mr. W. H. Hebden; Mus. D., Mr. G. Austin.—Chas. Knight and Dorothy Squire's company present Max Erard's scena "The Silver Wedding." Others on the bill are Carlotta Levey, comedienne; the Three Walons, comedy vocalists; Walter Stockwell, character comedian; Banjahra, Indian vocalist; Barnes and Bewley, entertainers; and Ryde and Wynn, comedy acrobats.

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DEATH.

MELVILLE.—On Dec. 27, George Emm Melville, aged 1 year 11½ months.

IN MEMORIAM.

CULLING.—In ever loving memory of my darling wife (Ada Clare), who passed away December 31, 1903. The years are speeding on, but the memory remains the same. Otto C. Culling.

NEWSOME.—In loving memory of our darling daddy, who died Jan. 2, 1913. Never forgotten by his daughters, Hilda Newsome and Tony Jackaway.

NEWSOME.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Jack, who died Jan. 2, 1913; also my father, James Newsome. Never forgotten by a sorrowing wife and daughter.—Bertha Jackaway.

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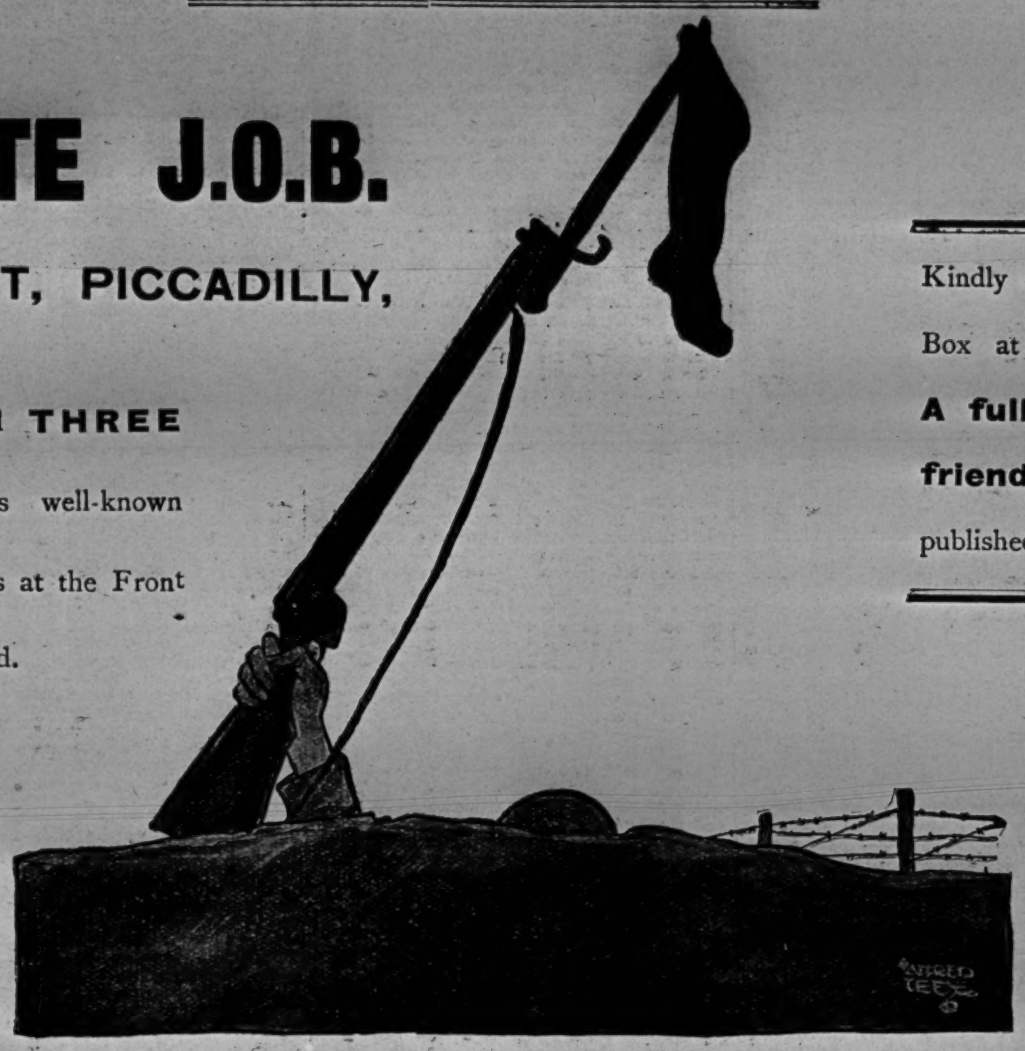

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PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE," AT MANCHESTER.

It is not departing from the fashion that Mr. J. James Hewson's version of "Robinson Crusoe," produced at the Manchester Theatre Royal on Dec. 23, honours the narrative exactitudes of Defoe's immortal story rather in the breach than in the observance. In fact, one might say that such recognisable features as are employed to give a semblance to the tale are little more than a peg upon which to hang the varied and inconsequent entertainments of what is practically a revue de luxe. So there is little to be said about the story, which is indicated chiefly by a succession of familiar scenes, from the seaport to the island stockade, and the introduction of the usual set of characters to match. This, to be sure, is largely what one expects of pantomime nowadays; what one is inclined to cavil at, even in so magnificent a show as the one under notice, is the tendency of a character to lose its original identity in the multiplicity of opportunities which arise from a too complete neglect of the traditional proprieties. In many cases this may be a matter of little moment. When it affects the principal figure in the production, as it affects Mr. George Robey, it becomes a question of importance. For Mr. Robey is Will Atkins, the wicked and sinister pirate, and in such guise presents to a delighted house one of the most richly humorous depictions it is possible to imagine—while it lasts. What happens, alas! is that for the sake of revue (it is the only way to put it) he leaves this splendidly comic success behind him, and thereafter reassumes, in the ways we know so well, the eccentric character-comedy of his usual vogue. One longs in vain for Will Atkins to reappear, but he is virtually lost to the pantomime. Let it be understood that this is no disparagement to the fine talent and resources of Mr. Robey in the achievement of his many successes of the evening. Laughter accompanies him throughout, and his songs—"The best man," "And that's that," and "What there was, was good"—evoked roars of appreciation on the opening night. So with the various sketchy interludes he introduces with other members of the cast. A popular foil is the quiet and simple humour of Mr. Jack Pleasants, who plays Billy Crusoe with a smooth and cheerful gusto, making many hits, and a particularly big one with his courting song, "Watching the trains come in." The prevailing fun is amplified also by Mr. Joe Nightingale, who gives an unexaggerated comedy impersonation of Mrs. Crusoe, good in every detail; the Sultans, a clever knockabout couple, who represent the Captain and Crew of the Saucy Seaweed; Mr. Kit Keen, a comedian and expert bone-soloist, as Man Friday; and Mr. Fred Conquest, in an amazing assumption of the guise of Pretty Poll, Crusoe's parrot. Of Robinson Crusoe, in the person of Miss Louie Beckman, many nice and appreciative things will be said; as of the dainty and engaging impersonation of Polly Hopkins by Miss Alice Russon. As Princess Korina, of the Cannibal Islands, Miss Sadrene Storri introduces a couple of excellent dances. There are many good songs, in addition to those mentioned—"Keep the home fires burning" and "Oh! for the sight of a girl!" by Miss Louie Beckman; "Just a little kiss" and "Tip-top Tipperary Mary," by Miss Alice Russon; Mr. Joe Nightingale's "Michael Cassidy, V.C."; "When the Angelus," by Mr. Raymond Elliss (the Demon); and "Sweep," by Mr. Kit Keen. Great praise is due to the highly-trained abilities of the chorus and ballet. As for the dresses, they are simply magnificent; while the astonishing beauty of the staging is specially exemplified in the lavish set scenes—All in a Seaport Town (D. G. Hall), The Island (R. C. Oldham), Crusoe's Hut (D. G. Hall and R. C. Browne), and Where They Lived Happy Ever After (J. W. Bull); while R. C. Oldham's Beneath the Sea, a Pearl Ballet which concludes the first half, is a positive artistic feast. The pantomime, produced under the stage direction of Mr. Reginald Hunt Firth, and the personal supervision of Mr. John Hart, is in for a big success.

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND" AT MANCHESTER.

No one needs to be told of the quaintness and charm of Lewis Carroll's wonderful fairy tale, "Alice in Wonderland," which bids fair to have a most successful run at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, where it was produced by Messrs. Stedman on Friday, the 24th. Mr. H. Savile Clarke's version embodies the entire delights of "Alice" and "Through the Looking-Glass," and the realisation is chiefly through the medium of a long and well-trained cast of juveniles. A rare spirit of enjoyment and sincerity is shown by the little players, who, though somewhat lacking in emphasis at first, will certainly improve in the confidence that "gets right home" as time goes on. If one must criticise, the suggestions may be ventured that the show as a whole would gain by compression, and that the comedy possibilities might be profitably developed at the expense of some of the dancing, which, pretty as it is, is at present somewhat in excess. For the staging nothing but praise can be expressed. There is one scene in particular, Under the Sea, where Oysters Dwell, which is at once beautiful, realistic and fanciful; it is the scene in which Miss Eileen Jowitt as the Oyster Queen executes some admirable toe-dancing. All the scenes, however, like every ensemble, are quaintly fine and in accordance with the extraordinary imagination that conceived the story. Miss Vera Hamilton as Alice plays with a very charming and unaffected grace, and among many other accomplished juveniles special praise must be accorded to Miss Anita Hayman as the Cheshire Cat, Miss Kathleen Cope as the White Rabbit, Miss Beryl Riggs as the March Hare, and Miss Sheila Tennyson as the Dormouse.

As the Mad Hatter, Mr. Hayden Coffin brings all his experience and sympathy to bear upon a practically perfect representation; Mr. Dan Leno, jun., first as the Caterpillar and then as the Red King, exploits his comedy opportunities in capital style, these opportunities being perhaps less than one might wish; and there is plenty of good fun by Mr. John Gerant and Mr. Leedham Stanley, who are Mock Turtle and Gryphon in the first act, and Tweedledee and Tweedledum in the second. Clever comedy is to be noted, too, in the work of Miss Winifred Porter, who makes good play with her chances as the "peppery" Cook in Act 1. Mr. Herbert Cottesmore is to be congratulated upon the production, which is under the direction of Messrs. A. H. Griffiths and Archibald Benwell, of whom the latter handles with skill the accompanying music of Walter Slaughter. It should be added that the scenery is by James Hicks, and that the ballets and incidental dances have been invented and arranged by Mlle. Lilian Leoffeler.

"CINDERELLA" AT NOTTINGHAM.

The Grand Theatre, Nottingham, was packed on Monday with an audience that gave full rein to its enthusiastic approval of the entertainment provided for them in the ever-interesting story of "Cinderella." All that thought and ingenuity can devise has been done by the able producer, Mr. Bobby Dillon, with the result that the production is replete in every detail. Of the nine scenes three are specially worthy of notice, viz., the Forest Glade, a delightfully executed Fairy Boudoir, in which the Pumpkin and Rats are converted into a beautiful crystalised coach, with four diminutive ponies, this being a veritable feast of joy to the youngsters; and lastly, the Royal Ball Room, an elaborate set, the scheme of colouring being in white, blue and gold. The well-written and witty book is by Yuan Mee, and an attractive feature is the music by Mr. Frank Bradsell, in which he judiciously mixes melodious airs and lively, tuneful dances. The dresses are beautiful both in design and colour, and the clever and artistic dances have been arranged by Miss Kitty Denton.

The rôle of Prince Charming is undertaken by Miss Gwladys Soman, and to her falls nothing but praise for a bright, pleasing, attractive performance. Her tasteful singing is heard to advantage in "A light burns in the window," "A little bit of heaven" and "We must all fall in" (during the latter song she is attended by a magnificent bulldog), and a dainty duet, "What do we care, we two?" with Cinderella. In the name-part Miss Nonny Lock makes a delightfully sweet and dainty representative. She has a specially pleasing number in "Blinky Bill," made doubly so by the introduction of a chorus of tiny children. Dandini has a spirited interpreter in Miss May Mayo who gives a lively rendering of the song "We all did the goose-step home." Miss Kitty Denton proves a smart and vivacious Cherry, and has a capital item in "Michigan," given with good effect. She is also associated with Mr. Bobby Dillon in a speciality duet, "The Spaniard who blighted my life." The Fairy Sunbeam is winsomely played by Miss Winifred Meadows.

The comedians are led by Mr. Bobby Dillon, who as Whiffles, the page boy, makes his entrance on a property donkey. Brimful of mischief and mirthful antics, he is a constant source of merriment from start to finish. He gives full point to the song, "Goosey, goosey gander," and has an effective duet with Cinderella in "I'm going away." Mr. George James is distinctly amusing as the Baron, and adds to the laughter in his number, "It's lovely to be in love." Messrs. Newham and Latimer are an irresistible pair of drolls as the Ugly Sisters, and make the fun fly in a duet, "In our flats." No more diverting broker's men can be imagined than the Sheverosky Brothers, whose resourcefulness never fails. They have a clever burlesque. "Back in merry old Russia again," that is a huge scream throughout. Miss Kitty Denton's Eight Rays of Sunshine dance with animation and artistic grace. The energetic manager of the theatre, Mr. J. Hague, deserves the thanks of all before and behind the curtain.

"OLD KING COLE," AT NOTTINGHAM.

With the pantomime of "Old King Cole," Messrs. Howard and Wyndham made a most auspicious start on Boxing Day at the Theatre Royal, under the direction of Mr. Geo. T. Minshull. The innovation of two shows nightly and two matinées per week, means an undoubted tax on the company, but the wholehearted way in which they worked at the opening is a guarantee of the spirit that will carry them through with flying colours.

The whole production is brisk and animated, full of merriment, and has several novelties that will meet with favour. The latest songs are effectively introduced, and the audiences on Monday night left no doubt as to their appreciation and enjoyment of the good fare offered them. The scenic artists, Messrs. T. F. Dunn, Stanley Shuter, and T. Holmes, have been given full scope for a display of their talents, with the result that several beautiful stage pictures are shown.

Musically, the production is as bright and lilting as could be wished and has, thanks to Mr. Jullien H. Wilson and Mr. John Armstrong, all the necessary swing and "go." The book of Messrs. J. Hickory Wood and J. James Hewson serves to provide the comedians with plenty of groundwork for their rollicking fun. Mr. George T. Minshull has selected the company with his usual discrimination.

A charming and vivacious principal boy is seen in Miss Lillian Major. Splendidly garbed, and possessing a sweet voice, this artiste scored instant successes in her songs, "Boys in khaki," "Keep the home fires burning," and "Kentucky." Miss Belle Mora, the comely and clever Queen, has a smart speciality in "Come and cuddle me," in which her dancing and patter are an excellent feature. Miss Minnie Scott makes a piquant and pleasing Princess, and her item, "Sprinkle me with kisses," is heartily appreciated. The cultured vocalism of Miss Victoria Maitland finds expression in "A little bit of Heaven" and "Blue eyes," both showing her artistic temperament and gaining the warmest approbation. As the Valet, Miss Millicent Vernon makes the part as important as possible. The comedy element is varied and entertaining, and the ball of fun is kept merrily rolling by the comedians. Foremost of these is Mr. Fred Colley, who makes the merry monarch a real fountain of jollity. He has a capital song on the many ways of kissing, which goes down in right good earnest, and a topical duet with Miss Scott, "I do like living in England," is rapturously encored. Mr. Fred Maple, the lively Peter, and Mr. Charles Macer, the whimsical Simple Simon, are excellent foils to each other, and conduce to the laughter in an amusing skit, entitled "Cassidy, V.C." Mr. Ian Mackay well upholds the part of a magician. He gives an effective rendering of "Show me the way to your heart." Praise is due also to Miss Jess Amie, the maid, and Miss Annette Jay as May. The Sydney Russell Troupe provide some neat and graceful dancing. Mr. John Armstrong conducts the orchestra with his usual efficiency; the hard-worked and conscientious stage manager, Mr. Jack Raymond, is to be complimented on the results of his efforts; and the kindly consideration of the able acting manager of the theatre, Mr. Wentworth Croke, has gained him much appreciation.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT OXFORD.

On Boxing Day, for the seventh successive year, Mr. G. Brydon Phillips produced the pantomime at the New Theatre, Oxford, the subject this year being "Little Red Riding Hood," written by Victor Stevens. This is the best pantomime Mr. Phillips has given us; the book is smartly written, the dresses and the scenery are both beautiful, and the whole show is a genuine success. Scene I. is The Village of Sweet Content, Scene II. The Borders of the Forest, III. and IV. The Glade in Summer, changing into The Glade in Winter, V. A Lane near Granny's Cottage, VI. Granny's Cottage, VII. On the Way to the Palace, and VIII. The Palace.

The cast is a good all-round one; Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald, gifted with a beautiful face and figure, makes an ideal Prince Amoroso, and her singing is above the ordinary. Jack and Jill are well played by the Misses Suzette Dole and Dora Eadie; Miss Phyllis Symondson makes a sweet little Cupid and Miss Renee Raymond a charming Fairy, while Miss Queenie Craze wins all hearts in the title-rôle. Dan Lawley makes a capital Granny, Alec Daimler scores heavily as the Squire, Dan Cribb is highly amusing as Simple Simon, and Lester Yorke is excellent as the Wolf. Specialities are contributed by Les Marignys, clever dancers; Cribb and Cribb; Alec Daimler, and Dora Eadie. The pantomime went splendidly, and reflects great credit on Fred Cribb, the stage manager, and Mr. Brydon Phillips, under whose personal direction it was produced.

"BABES IN THE WOOD,' AT RICHMOND.

Messrs. Bransgrove and Slaughter are to be highly complimented on their production of "The Babes in the Wood," at the Richmond Hippodrome. The plot runs on conventional lines, and it is mounted with great skill and no little beauty. The dialogue is funny, the dresses gorgeous, the music bright and tuneful, and the dancing above the average. Divided in two parts, there are altogether eleven scenes, and each is a gem in itself, thanks to the artistic ability of Messrs. Pullinger and Pim.

Miss Florence Ray is a bewitching Marion, and carries all before her; no better Robin Hood than Miss Lilian Dundas is desired. She sings admirably, and dances beautifully. The Babes are prettily portrayed by little Miss Edna Maud—a really wonderful child—and Isabel Donne. Dainty Marjorie Stevens wins all hearts as Fairy Diamond.

Distinctly funny are Messrs. Nash and Noel as a couple of waggish cutthroats, Rob and Plunder; and Frank Bertram as the Squire causes peals of merriment. The Squire's son, played by Mr. Lon Teel, is equally good. Astley's Royal Circus enhances the effect of the production, to the manifest joy of the little ones in the audience, and the pantomime is an unqualified success, thanks largely to the splendid stage managership of Mr. H. Bristow. The panto is booked for a fortnight.

"ALADDIN," AT ST. LEONARDS.

The producers of this pantomime at the Palace Pier deserve great praise for the admirable manner in which they present it, and the beautiful forms and dresses which adorn it. Considering the smallness of the stage, the scenic effects are truly marvellous, the first and third scenes in the first act and the fourth in the second being especially good. The pantomime, which was well received on Boxing Day by a crowded audience, runs on familiar lines, with plenty of the latest songs and some really first-class dancing.

Mr. J. D. Hunter, who was cordially received, was an excellent Widow Twankey, and Miss Vera Dudley a shapely and charming Aladdin; Miss Molly Stoll was a winsome Princess, and Miss Connie Hilliard a manly-looking Pekoe. The Abanazar of Mr. Freddy Beck was good, and other parts were efficiently filled.

"BABES IN THE WOOD," AT SHEFFIELD.

The Theatre Royal, Sheffield, has added another success to the long list of spectacular triumphs that have graced the spacious stage of the old "Home of Pantomime," and on Christmas Eve the spacious auditorium presented its usual exhilarating picture. "The Babes in the Wood" is a popular subject, and Mr. R. C. Oldham, breaking loose from the pantomime traditions, has boldly dropped the Robin Hood and Maid Marian story incidents out of the book, and stuck to the simple story well beloved of the youngsters. Mr. John Hart long ago educated his patrons in the matter of clean humour, wholesome fun, chaste ballets, and refined splendour.

After a lively melange of popular songs of London town, the curtain goes up on the Bureau of Krime with the time-honoured argument between the beautiful fairy and the malignant demon. Then there is a sudden change from "green fire and mystery" to the charming village of Wye, where the cottages are exquisitely clean and the sun always shines. The principal characters make their appearance here after a pleasing rustic ballet, and the plot begins. The Crossroads Inn is a comedian's scene, and in the following set, the nursery, there is any amount of fun for the children. The first act ends in the Fairy Wood, a midsummer's night's dream of umbrageous mystery and faerie charm inspired by the highest traditions of the Greve and Beverley school of scenic art. The exquisite ballet here introduced is a splendid conception, admirably followed out by the united efforts of the stage manager, Mr. Henry Hawtrey; the ballet mistress, Mlle. Louie; the scenic artist, Mr. D. G. Hall; the musical director, Mr. Sedgewick, and the ladies of the corps de ballet. The action is continued in the rustic bridge scene, another triumph of effective building up and clever brush-work. A charming dance and the dramatic episode of the babes and the robbers are effective. The detective's office, the Matlockeries, and the music hall are happy venues for the merry comedians to weigh in with their choicest gags and apropos persiflage. The music hall scene is a stage on the stage with private boxes, tableaux curtains, &c. This is a scream all the time, and Messrs. George Bass, W. J. Damerell, C. Rutland, and Frank Haytor deserve all praise for the hearty manner in which they "keep the pot a-boiling." The grand culminating spectacle is the Palace of Chess, a grand scenic triumph of the typical John Hart order, glowing with exquisite colouring. Ronald and Letty are united, the babes are made happy by a repentant and forgiven Baron, and the grand operatic finale brings down the curtain on a gorgeous ensemble.

Mr. Hart has secured a fine company. The Sisters Reeve were warm favourites at the Royal in "The House that Jack Built" as principal boy and girl (1913-14), and they received a very cordial reception on their entrance on Christmas Eve. They looked the ideal young lovers, and they might have materialised from a Watteau masterpiece. Miss Mabel Reeve was a bright and refined Ronald, and her songs were very successful, notably "My Tipperary Mary." Miss Hester Reeve was a charming principal girl as Letty, and she brought down the house with her well-rendered "Somehow I think I love you!" The Sisters Reeve were both successful in their acting and singing, and the audience were thoroughly delighted with their tuneful rendering of "My old Kentucky home," "Show me the way to your heart," &c. The Sisters Terry soon made themselves favourites as the well-grown babes, Miss Bella as Popsy, and Miss Jules as Georgie. Their songs and dances were loudly applauded, their clever vocal speciality, "Shadowland," followed by an operatic pas de deux, bringing down the house. Miss Ann Hubert as the Fairy Sunbeam, with a handsome presence, a charming smile, and a cultured voice, elevates pantomime to the heights of grand opera, and her contributions brought down the house. The well-known Haytors, who were here six years ago, were cordially received. Miss Winnie Haytor was a graceful Jack Spratt, and she acted, sang and danced with her accustomed vivacity, and Miss Bessie Terry was a sprightly Kitty, her duet with Mr. Frank Haytor, "The fox-trip ball," being very successful. Mr. George Bass as the eccentric Baron kept the house in roars of laughter, and he put in some original business during Miss Hester Reeve's dainty rendering of "I'll sprinkle you with kisses." Messrs. Damerell and Rutland as the up-to-date robbers made the rafters ring with laughter, notably in the music hall scene before mentioned. Mr. Frank Haytor was quite at home as Lynx, the detective, Mr. H. Weste did well as the dramatic representative of the demon, and Mr. Pip Powell's Baroness was a funny impersonation free from the slightest vulgarity. Others in the cast included the Misses Milner, Delorme, Almer, Selby, Fleming, Mervyn, Edwardes, Delaney, V. Edwards, and Messrs. Dale, Jenner, Ashley, Jones, Atkins, and the local favourite, Charles Taylor. The graceful ballerina has been well trained by Mme. Louie. The annual has been produced by Mr. H. Hawtrey, under the personal superintendence of Mr. John Hart, and the courteous manager of the Royal and the Lyceum, Mr. Beaumont.

"SINBAD THE SAILOR" AT WORTHING.

On Monday, Mr. Joe Collins and Mr. Rob Lyons took possession of the boards of the Royal, Worthing, for their pantomime, "Sinbad the Sailor," and in the ten scenes into which the story is written patrons found plenty to amuse them. Of the story little need be said, but mention must be made of the scenery, which is good and which has been arranged by G. Wayne. The resources of the various music publishing firms have been drawn upon with good effect, and the production of the show is in the hands of Mr. George Keppel-Stephenson, under the personal supervision of Mr. Joe Collins. A great bulk of the work falls upon the shoulders of Miss Dess Desborough and Mr. Sid Cotterell, Sinbad and Hindbad respectively. Miss Desborough, who is not new to patrons of the Royal at Worthing, is an excellent principal boy, and her songs include "The goose-step" and "Sergeant Brown," and these are sung with a dash. Miss Sonia Seal is a charming Sadie, and her efforts were highly appreciated at the initial performance on Monday. She has some good songs, including "My old Kentucky home," and her duet with Sinbad, "Teach me the way to love," is one of the successes of the production.

Mr. Sid Cotterell, who has had many years of experience in pantomime work, is greatly in evidence right throughout, and finds excellent support from Mr. Hal Burns and Mr. George Cooper, who play the rôles of Bill, his enemy, and Captain, his skipper, respectively. Mr. Leslie Rose, in the part of the Dame, had many admirers, and one of his successes was the number "Sweet sixteen." Mr. Jack Rayner is deserving of the very highest commendation for his interpretation of the Old Man of the Sea. His characterisation of this part is one of the best that has ever been seen at Worthing. The work of the well-chosen chorus is a strong feature of the production.

'PRETTY DARLINGS."

Revue Produced at Palace Theatre, Gloucester, on Boxing Day.

Christmas in Gloucester without a visit from Jack McKenzie would be comparable to Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark, so to speak, and the crowded houses at the Palace Theatre on Monday goes to prove his visit to be as popular as ever. Messrs. Vint and McKenzie have sent us two shows previous to this in the last twelve months, but they have undoubtedly surpassed themselves with their latest production, "Pretty Darlings." The superb dressing and mounting are far in advance of any revue we have had here, and the whole revue is full of novelties and surprises, many quite daring in their originality. In the first scene (the Front of a Booth in a Show Ground) we are introduced by an old showman to the entire company of principals, dancers, and chorus, and when he is assured that everything is in order the show begins, and we are transported to Scene II., "Somewhere in Somewhere"—a very beautiful old-world set of a port, where an impecunious President soundly rates his Chief of Police for his empty coffers and lack of prisopers. The arrival of a British gunboat with despatches for the President paves the way for the introduction of a British Lieutenant, who arrives just on time to prevent the arrest of Sandy, a Scotch detective, who has suspicions that the President's daughter is not really his daughter, but a missing member of an aristocratic English family.

The Lieutenant is attracted by the President's daughter, whilst Sandy is at once enamoured with her maid, Babette. After some explanations they decide to leave the island, and are stopped just on the point of embarking by Tomaso, Chief of Police, and his men.

The libretto is by Jay Hem, and the music, which is very tuneful and catchy, by Messrs. Syd. Beckett and Edwin Turner.

Of the performers, Miss Viola Rene, as Cerita, the President's daughter, stands out prominently, acting, singing, and dancing in charming and vivacious manner. Her best numbers are "Mr. Moon" (with most effective chorus), "My pansy queen," and "Ting, ting, tra la la." Her duet with Mr. Taggart Craughan, who plays the Lieutenant, is a most melodious number. Mr. Craughan has a fine voice, and is heard to much advantage in "Watch dogs of the sea" and "A little bit of Heaven." Miss Molly Craven makes a charming Babette, her song, "I'm glad my boy grew up to be a soldier," being well received. Miss Thirza Fanson scores with a comedy number, "The bad girl of the family." The comedians are especially strong. Mr. Jack McKenzie, who impersonates the Chief of Police, Tomaso, is a great favourite here, and his gags and songs are irresistible. Mr. Geo. West as the Scotch detective has a droll style that at once catches on. He sings "We all did the goose step home," works hard, and is a pronounced success. Amongst the hilarity makers, Will Fennings and Little Tichbourne play two comedy Gendarmes, their opposite stature alone being a humorous contrast. Mr. Bernard Mervyn makes a dignified and unscrupulous President.

A word of praise is due to two graceful dancers, Miles. Myrta Hamilton and Dorothea Trowell, their pas deux being capital. A well-trained and attractive chorus adds to the general excellence. Mr. Syd. Beckett ably conducts an augmented orchestra.

Messrs. Vint and McKenzie's revue, "Pretty Darlings," produced at the Palace Theatre, Gloucester, has a fine patriotic finale.

The music may also be said to be connected with the war, for the part composer, Edwin Turner, actually revised some of his music whilst in his billet at the front, and sent it to Mr. McKenzie a few weeks before the production. It loses nothing at the hands of Mr. Syd Beckett, who conducts his own and Mr. Turner's score. Mr. Turner, or, to give him his proper title, Private Edwin Turner, of the 8th Royal Scots, has seen much of the hard fighting, having been at Givenchy, Festubert, and other affairs, and is still "carrying on," both from a military and musical standpoint.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

A merry crowd of holiday-makers were attracted to the Agricultural Hall this week, and evidently were bent on enjoying to the full all the fun of the fair, all the familiar, and some novel, side-shows being well patronised. "Sir" Robert Fossett is again this year providing the fine circus entertainment submitted, among the performers being Sanger's Educated Performing Sea Lions, world's greatest animal act, the talk of the civilised world, impossible to describe; Angela Gavine, with "Battlefield Bess"; the Two Olympians; the Reimar Bros., in an aerial, gymnastic, hand-balancing performance; Miss Percilla Voltage, on horseback; entree by two funny clowns, Little Willie and Comical Johnny; Miss Florrie and Mr. Robert Fossett, junr., in their double jockey act, with two superb horses; the Three Mexicans, in their display of stockwhip cracking and rope-spinning; Mlle. Emmie, haute-ecole rider, and her Italian high school horse, "Torino"; Master Claude, a daring bar act over bars and gates; comic absurdity by a host of funny clowns; Miss Florrance, in her equestrian trick act; the Great Tango Troupe of Riders, two ladies and three gentlemen; Sisters Urma, lady gymnasts, dancers, and equilibrists; Miss Baker and her school horse, "Emperor"; Funny Frisk, clever clown; Mr. Willie Scott, in tricks upon a bare-backed horse; Mr. Roberts, with his performing elephant, "Topsy"; Miss Fossett's jumping pony, "Prince," accompanied by "Niagar," a clever riding dog; and the Six Peerless Potters, expert gymnasts. There is no doubt that the Fair remains as popular as ever, and will meet with the same measure of popular approval as hitherto.

A CHILDREN'S REVUE.

A novel matinée programme is being given at the Golders Green Hippodrome, consisting of a clever little revue, an original playlet by Leon M. Lion, and a number of delightful ballets and dances.

"TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STARS."

A Children's Revue, by Ben Landeck, Music by Max Brunell, Produced at Golders Green Hippodrome on Monday, Dec. 27.

This gay little production forms the second half of the programme. Acted for the most part by a company of children, of which those two clever child actresses Cora Goffin and Peggi Andrews, are the bright and shining little stars, it contains the essence of most that is the joy of childhood. It is the evening of Cora's party, and a most convenient conjurer, engaged for the occasion, transforms all the guests into the other people they would rather be. So the familiar romances and stories are re-enacted. Prince Charlie rescues the Sleeping Beauty from an animated Teddy Bear; then they are attacked by a pirate band, and eventually the whole party goes off to a fairy island, where they are introduced to Red Riding Hood, Robinson Crusoe, and the other fairy-tale friends. Cora Goffin and Peggi Andrews are two engaging young people, and act throughout most naturally and convincingly. Cora Goffin has one or two good songs, of which "Five little pigs" is the best. The text song is also a good idea, and pleased both the grown-ups and children in the appreciative audience. Professor Pepper, the conjurer, was acted by Olive Currie. The name suggests a lady in the part. If this natural surmise is correct, her make-up, voice, and boisterous sense of burlesque acting were certainly very masculine. Miss Rosie Westgate and Mr. Henry Latimer acted very well as the nurse and footman respectively, but it would improve the show if the scene from "East Lynne" were cut, as it is but a poor imitation of a well-known West-End burlesque. Miss Cissie Walper and Mr. Stephen Robert did good work as the Father and Mother, and the dances by Violet Faucheux and Iris Rowe, and the songs by Miss Grace Hawkins, all added to the attractiveness of the show.

"THE KING WHO HAD NOTHING TO LEARN."

A Romantic Fantasy, by Leon M. Lion.

This interesting play gives splendid scope to exhibit the talens of those clever children, Cora Goffin and Peggi Andrews. It would be difficult to find a better medium than this idea of the boy King of Balkania playing at kings and queens in his own throne-room, with the little peasant girl who strays in out of curiosity. The King, a pathetic little figure, is acted by Cora Goffin in a graceful and dignified manner. The youthful condescension of the monarch is well contrasted by the artlessness and joyousness of the small peasant girl, whose grip of the vital things of life is so real compared with the lot of the boy king. Little Peggi Andrews acts most naturally, and even says her more serious lines—about the welfare of the people, for instance—with conviction. Miss Cissie Walper made a good study of the part of Tanta, and Stephen Robert will act the part of the tutor more convincingly when he has a better grip of his lines.

"ET PUIS BON SOIR."

A Play Without Words, by Ruby Ginner.

As the title suggets, this pantomime (in the real meaning of that abused word) is founded on the famous French verse, "La vie est vaine." It is a pierrot play—that excellent medium!—and a quite original and interesting one. The scene is laid in the greenroom of a French theatre, and its main theme is, of course, the story of Pierrot's hopeless love for Pierette, but it has some delightful and fantastic side themes. The introduction of the ballet master and the call boy adds touches of good humour without spoiling the general feeling of beauty. The acting was uniformly good. Miss Ruby Ginner's Pierrot is quite a fresh creation in its whimsicality and pathos. Pierrette was played quite gracefully by Miss Cicely Goode, and Harlequin in the very capable hands of Miss Irene Mawer. Mr. Basil Bowen and Miss Iris Rowe played the parts of Ballet Master and Call Boy with a real sense of humour.

The rest of the programme was occupied by a number of dance scenas arranged by Miss Ruby Ginner, of which "The Dales of Arcadia" was the most ambitious. This ballet is a trifle too long, but when it is condensed it will be an excellent setting for the talents of a capable company of artistes. Miss Ginner, as the faun, gave an impression of real, intoxicating joyousness, and she was well supported by Miss Violet Faucheux and the other members of the ballet. Of the four other dances, we liked best the old Egyptian dance to Massenet's music, and the Caprice, in which Miss Ginner gave an impressive interpretation of Rubinstein's music.

B. FELDMAN AND CO.'S SONGS.

One of the most popular features of Edinburgh pantomime is the singing by Florrie Elliston (principal girl in "Dick Whittington" at the Theatre Royal) of "A little bit of Heaven." Each performance evokes a vociferous encore.

Mabel Manson scored a gratifying success at Lewisham last week. Her singing of "A little bit of Heaven" was both tuneful and artistic.

Ella Shields is making her usual success at the Holborn and Shoreditch Empires this week, where she is singing "Just one kiss, just another one."

Edith Chandler's répertoire includes the two big ballads of the year, "Blue Eyes" and "A little bit of Heaven." In both numbers Miss Chandler excels.

Sybil Goodchild, in "A little bit of Heaven" and "Give me your answer, dear, before you go," provides an excellent turn, both numbers being handled in an artistic manner.

Ida Re Nita is one of the most successful artistes featuring "What do we care?" Her other popular numbers are "Meet me at the corner of the street" and "Sometimes I think you love me."

The Terry Trio, Bella, Jules, and Bessie, are very popular as the Babes in Sheffield Theatre Royal pantomime. Their big song hit is "What do we care?"

Harry Wright sang "When the moon shines bright on Charlie Chaplin" at a concert for wounded soldiers at Bristol, and they begged of him to include it in the panto. at the Theatre Royal there.

Daisy Dormer, principal at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, has scored effectively with "You're a great big wonderful baby."

Beatie and Babs were at Victoria Palace last week, and gave great pleasure with their effective rendering of "My girl from Slumbertown."

Hilda Elen, with Nelson Barrett's "Little Jack Horner" panto., scores with "You're a great big wonderful baby."

"When the moon shines bright on Charlie Chaplin" is going strong up North. Staid Scotsmen, it is said, are even heard humming the ditty on their way to the kirk. Glasgow simply rings with it.

"Blue eyes" is extremely popular all over the country. The "Daily Mail" says:—"It is impossible to place a finger on a particular quality or phrase which brings such a song to the lips of millions, but the allurement is there."

VIEWS ON REVUE.

A SYMPOSIUM OF STARS.
By EDGAR WHITE.

A second instalment of the article in which leading artistes talk about revue, its extraordinary popularity, and its effect upon the profession as a whole.

The lights of the London Hippodrome loomed in the distance—or would have done in ordinary times—and there I wended my way to call upon

MR. HARRY TATE.

I have known and admired Harry for many years, and he has always struck me as being a man with strong convictions. Therefore, I was a little surprised when, on putting the first of my questions, "What is the reason of the remarkable success of revue?" he replied: "What do the others think about it? I suppose," he added, making a determined effort to be serious, "the artiste has a better chance. A performer cannot always get hold of the audience in four minutes. In revue, if he fails in one scene, he can pick himself up in another; whereas in a music hall, if he fails in one turn, he fails completely. Has revue come to stay? Yes, as long as Charlie Chaplin—that is, if you get the right people. While the war's on people want light entertainment; they don't want anything heavy. Undoubtedly the revue does hurt the single turn; but it is here, and the situation must be faced. Do I prefer revue to music hall work? I must say I do. It is harder work, but there is no travelling about. And, besides, you don't have to fight the audience; they are with you all the time.

"Turn-working has its disadvantages, not the least of which is the difficulty of getting about. I took a friend round in my car one day to show him what it was like, and at the end, when I asked him what he thought of it, he said: 'Turn-working! It seems to me you do four turns at the halls and five out of the window calling other people names.'

"The same friend was with me one day when my motor ran into a tinker's barrow and upset the whole establishment. I went back, and the tinker said: 'What are you going to do about it? You've ruined my business!' I wanted to compensate the man, so I picked up a battered tin pot and inquired 'How much this?' and he replied: 'Threepence.' I selected a tin kettle in the same condition. 'What price this?' 'Sixpence,' he said. 'How much do you want for the lot?' 'Well, say four shillings,' he replied. I gave him half a quid. 'I wish someone would run over me every day,' said the tinker, all smiles."

Gaily I tripped—tripped is the right word—across the road to the Alhambra, where I saw

MISS PHYLLIS MONKMAN.

"I can only give you two minutes," she said. Two minutes! Two minutes in which to tell an eager public what a star who has so powerfully illumined the horizon of revue thinks about it all. "What do you consider is the reason of the extraordinary popularity of revue?" Casting an anxious look at the clock, Miss Monkman replied: "Perhaps it is because people do not care to concentrate their minds on a connected story. They are too busy to think just now; they want to be amused."

"But it is getting serious," I protested. "Here are the great majority of the music halls in the country giving revue, and five theatres in London have yielded to its influence. What is the reason for it? Is it your fault?" I added, regarding her sternly. Silence gave consent.

By this time one minute had gone. "Personally," said Miss Monkman, "I love revue. It gives scope for displaying one's versatility. Suppose, for instance an accident happened to me, and I could not dance. Well, I could take up character parts, because revue has given me the opportunity to prove my ability to do so."

The two minutes were up. "Good-bye," said Miss Monkman. "I hope next time it will be a longer interview." And a moment later she was going through the mazes of the "bear dance," which is such an attractive feature of "Now's the Time."

Talking about the theatres, I felt it was time they had a say in this symposium. No theatre, I thought, more likely to supply "the goods" than the Ambassadors, where revue has flourished since before the war broke out, and none more justified to speak on the subject than

MLLE. ALICE DELYSIA.

The fascinating Parisienne spoke with authority and discernment. "I think revue has come to stay," she said, decisively. "Of course, in Paris it has long been the most popular form of light amusement. The reason seems to me obvious. It is so elastic and permits of the introduction of any feature that may be entertaining or original. One can enjoy a revue from the commencement or the middle. It is not necessary to see it all through, as there is no plot to worry about. This is a very important factor to a large number of people who consider their dinner of, at any rate, equal importance to their theatre-going.

"It is idle to pretend that you have revues in London as we have in Paris. Your productions are very beautiful and your artistes are very brilliant, but your revues generally review nothing. They are a delightful series of amusing and picturesque episodes.

"Mr. Grattan, the author of 'Odds and Ends' and 'More,' reminds me of our great revue writer Rip, in Paris. Whereas Rip only writes, Mr. Grattan writes book and lyrics, produces, and arranges dances. He is wonderful, and I owe much to him. I think it is very difficult to write real revue for London. Your great city is so very vast that what happens in Islington does not interest people who live in Hammersmith. Therefore your revue writer is short of topics. He can only deal with matters that are of national interest. These are few and far between. In Paris, if the mayor of one "quartier" did something amusing it would make all Paris laugh. In London, if the Mayor of Cricklewood (does Cricklewood have a mayor?) did the most outrageous things, nobody but those in Cricklewood would be interested. Do you see my point?

"To revert to the Ambassadors, I think a small theatre is better for revue than a large one. There is such an intimacy between the actors and the audience that much more subtle effects can be obtained. Mr. Cochran dares to present at the Ambassadors subtle scenes that would be impossible elsewhere. The Ambassadors is like the Capucines of Paris. I am very proud to be a member of the company there, and I am very proud of its success."

(To be continued.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

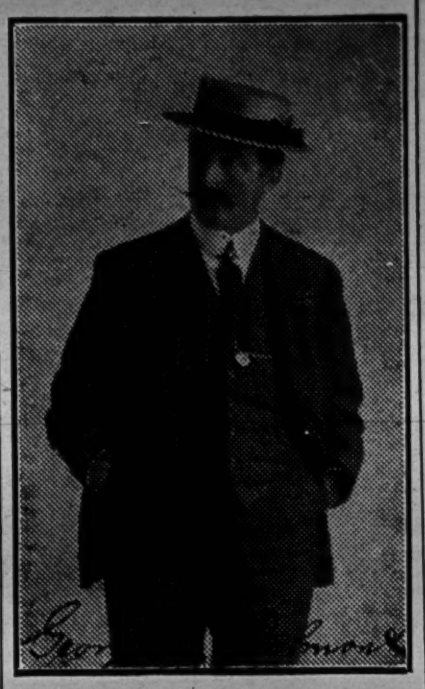
INQUISITIVE.—*If you use any of the material of an artiste it is always necessary to ask his permission. Why not? It is the honourable British way. You must remember you are trying to make a reputation on the work of his brains, not yours.*

TOPICAL SONGS AND SINGERS.

By GEORGE BELMONT AND THE PILGRIM.

[Mr. George Belmont, or Barnum's Beauty, is certainly one of the authorities on the history of the halls. For about seven years he worked on the variety stage with a partner as a comedian and dancer, and at the age of 29 opened the Sebright in the Hackney-road as the first real twice-nightly music hall in London. Later he ran the Olympic, the Surrey, and Sadler's Wells Theatres on the same bifurcated plan. In his showman days he composed many striking advertisements as alliterative as those of his great predecessor, Phineas T. Barnum, whose career as a boomer has always extorted his warmest admiration.—THE PILGRIM.]

The adaptation of music hall songs has made



[Photo by Hana.

"BARNUM'S BEAUTY."

the fortune of many a burlesque. Planché found his inspiration in the higher realms of classic extravaganza, Byron, the Broughs, Reece, and Burnand caught the realistic spirit of the music hall. Stead, Leybourne, Vance, Fred Albert, and Charles Williams gave them points. The result was an idealisation of music hall fun. The patter song of the Canterbury and Oxford was filtered through the fancy of H. J. Byron and Burnand, and we had the merry results in burlesques and musical farces that were delightful, not only because they burlesqued something, but for the reason that they were up-to-date, and gave serious-minded persons an excuse to go to the music halls. There in the 'sixties and 'seventies and early 'eighties the topical singer and the ready rhymester flourished.

It is not easy to say who was the greatest "improvisatore" ever known. Neither is it necessary in this article to endeavour to find out. We might speculate on the gifts of Brother Philip in the time of Sixtus V., who had great fame, or hazard a guess that Blondel was the first extempore singer. But that way controversy lies, and we will avoid any further flights of imagination, plane down at once to the middle of the nineteenth century—the most unromantic period of the world's history—and accept the opinion of that industrious chronicler Johnny Gideon, who wrote so many interesting reminiscences of his long and varied career for these pages.

Showman, Poet, and Musician.

Johnny, in his reminiscences, gave the palm unhesitatingly to Charles Sloman (or Solomon), who at Evans's in the 'fifties sang doggerel verses in allusion to the dress, manner, or deportment of any member of the audience in front of him—something after this style:—

And now I see a gentleman, who's got a silken wipe:
He's smokin' a cigar now; he'd sooner have a pipe.
And there's his companion, whom all the ladies love;
He's putting down his hat now, and taking off his glove.

Charles was not only a "poet," but a fine musician. He composed the music of every song he wrote, except the comic ones. He thought he could sing, too, yet he had not a musical note in his voice—always a bit husky! Billed once to sing at the City of London Theatre at an entertainment in aid of a Jewish charity, he chose as an appropriate number, "The maid of Judah," one of the many he had written. On the prompter calling "Time," on went Charlie for his turn. He had no sooner finished croaking the first line: "No more shall the children of Judah sing," when a Yid in the gallery shouted, "I should think not, with a voice like yours."

Mackney the Topical.

Some authorities state that Charles Sloman wrote the six original verses of "The whole hog or none," which many claimed to be the greatest topical song of the nineteenth century. The authorship was claimed by George Ware, who wrote it in 1849, getting the tune from Tom Moore's melody, "Love's young dream," and Ware proved his contention in our columns some twenty years ago. It was sung for a great many years by the great Mackney, the father of English burnt-cork minstrelsy. In his day he upheld the best traditions of plantation melody, which he made popular—as no other performer ever did—in the days before Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery. He made his name as a minstrel and a very versatile performer some time previous to the first appearance of the original Christy's at St. James's Hall.

(To be continued.)

WEEKLY.

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DR. BODIE.
IN JOHANNESBURG.
The Greatest Sensation ever known in S. Africa.
DR. BODIE'S WIZARDRY.

BIG CROWD AMAZED.

A WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE.

Dr. Bodie made his appearance at the Standard Theatre last night, and entirely justified all the claims that have been made for him—or at least he seemed to. The qualification is introduced because Dr. Bodie's show touches so closely upon the miraculous as to bring a considerably big strain upon one's credulity. To dismiss his performance as a preposterously large "spoof" is impossible, however, for there remains puzzlement and amazedness. His female medium seated in the electric chair holds in her hand a carbon. The doctor picks up a second carbon and touches the other, and from the contact flashes an arc of light that floods the previously darkened auditorium. You are sceptical? The human body could not bear the passage of such a current of electric energy! Dr. Brodie touches the lady's cheek with the point of a sword, passes the blade over her arms and sparks fly from where the steel touches. It is all very strange, all very clever, very wonderful, indeed.

Dr. Bodie's performance is unlike anything hitherto seen in Johannesburg, and the new sensation was enjoyed, very heartily enjoyed, it appeared, by a great "house." Not for a long time has the Standard contained such a large audience or witnessed such scenes of enthusiasm as followed the chief of the doctor's demonstrations of hypnotic and electric power. Curiosity attracted the crowd, curiosity regarding the personality so much talked of, and perhaps the expectation of seeing him "caught out." But Dr. Bodie gives no "chances." Last night he did what was promised on his behalf. It was claimed that he could bring about the cure of functional diseases, that in particular he could cure paralysis by a method of bloodless surgery aided by electricity and hypnotism. A little boy was brought with a leg and foot misshapen from paralysis, and after treatment in full view of the audience he was able to plant his foot down firmly and walk off the stage. Then a little girl was carried in, similarly deformed as to a foot, and with a hand that hung pathetically useless. After a few minutes' manipulation she was able to grip an object with the hand, and later she walked off with only a very slight limp, making her parents, who were seated in the stalls, very evidently happy. "How is it done?" and "Is the cure lasting?" were questions heard on all sides. Well, it happened, anyway. Some of our local surgeons ought to investigate the matter. Dr. Bodie has been called a charlatan and many harder names, but—he does things, without a doubt. A thing which is quite as remarkable as any is that he contrives to make his "experiments" with the human body most interesting, and in no way offends the susceptibilities.

But all his hypnotic and electrical "business" is not serious; some of it is delightfully funny—that part, for instance, when he invites a "committee" from the audience upon the stage and "persuades" them to perform feats that are ludicrous. For twenty minutes during this part of the entertainment there were continuous roars and shrieks of laughter. "La Belle Electra," very well described as "the modern Trilby," assists in a performance that is in every way remarkable. Dr. Bodie is an amazing person, and his performance will no doubt lead to nightly crowding of the Standard during his visit. It is not as an expert in hypnotism and electrical healing only that Dr. Bodie shines, for he is a front-rank ventriloquist as well. "The Laird's Highland Party," as his ventriloquial turn is named, is a capital entertainment in itself.—Vide the "Star," Johannesburg, Nov. 16, 1915.

"DOOM OF THE KAISER," foretold in Monk Johannes' startling 300-year-old-prophecy, 8-page pamphlet, sent post free, for 6 copies 1s. 1d., 12 copies 2s. For distribution purposes 50 copies 5s. 5d., 100 copies 8s. 6d. Also "THE EAGLES AND THE CARCASE," by "Theta," in ten chapters, being the most astounding book published in connection with prophecies on the war, and its ultimate ending, 2s. 6d. net, 3 copies 7s. MORGANS, LTD., 88, Chancery-lane, London W.C.; or at Newsagents, Bookstalls, &c., throughout the United Kingdom.
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ENGLAND.
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Composed by ARNOLD BERESFORD.

Refrain:— O England, mother England,
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God give thee greater glory,
And guard thee evermore!

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Continued from page 4.

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WANTED, good Pianist-Conductor, open Jan. 3, 1916, one used to Pictures and Varieties. Would entertain small family band, or husband and wife. Apply at once, H. BANCROFT, Hippodrome, Wisbech, Cam.

MINERS' THEATRE, ASHINGTON.
WANTED, Wanted, Conductor (Violin), experienced in Variety.
Age, refs., and lowest terms (to include Sunday Picture Performance) to WALDRON,
Hippodrome, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Pianist-Conductor. Open at once. Also Chorus.
STEPHENSON,
Pavilion, Stafford.

WANTED, to open Monday next, Resident Pianist-Conductors, with own libraries, S. Wales. Twice nightly Pictures and Variety, matinée inclusive. Wire lowest, and last reference to LEON VINT,
142, Long Acre, London, W.C.

WANTED, at once, a smart Piano Conductor, for small orchestra; must be used to pictures.
Apply, 10/12, Garrick-street, W.C.

WANTED, a Good Pianist Conductor, to double 1st Violin or other instruments. State age, married or single, enclose references and photo, if possible, and absolute lowest terms for permanent engagement, to
C. A. SEEBOLD, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

HIPPODROME, PAISLEY.
WANTED, to open Jan. 10, First-class Leader; also Cornet.
Terms, A.M.U. Ref., J. CARTMELL, Mus. Dir.

THE PAVILION,
EDGWARE ROAD, W.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Leader (Gent.).
First-class Experienced Artiste.
Applications (letters only), to MUSICAL DIRECTOR.

WANTED, for Jan. 3, at Empire, Longton, Staffs., for Opera (O'Mara Co.), First Violin, Viola, Flute; for one week. Terms to FRANK HUGHES, 195, Terrace, North Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, good First Violin and Solo Cornet, open Jan. 3. Apply, with refs., terms, CONDUCTOR, New Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

WANTED, at once, for music hall work, 1 Violin, Flaute and Piccolo, Drums, Trombone, and Cornet. Call to-day, 11 a.m. or 2 p.m.., at 3, Willoughby-street British Museum.

WANTED, immediately, Violinists, 'Cellists, Pianists, for Midlands, also Organist (2-manual), for West End, London; evenings only, no Sundays. Audition Wednesday and Thursday.
MME. WALTER,
46, Fitzroy-street, W.

WANTED, a Good Lady Solo Violinist, to play for pictures and in café, about 6 hours week-days, 4 hours Sundays. State age, lowest terms, enclose references and photo if possible, to C. A. SEEBOLD, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

WANTED, First-class Violins, 'Cellists and Pianist-organists, for West-End and provincial cinemas. Apply, to-day or to-morrow morning, with instruments, MANAGER, 43, St. Stephen's-avenue, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Violinists, 'Cellists, Pianists and Organists; experienced players.
MADAME BAKER,
62, Earlham-grove, London.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, good Violin, Repetiteur, experienced to Pictures, for Croydon Cinema. Open immediately.
Call, STUART, 167, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, Lady 'Celliste, experienced to Pictures, evenings only, for Northampton. Permanent engagement. Open immediately. Terms, 30s. Wire, STUART, 167, Oxford-street, London.

WANTED, 'Cellist, experienced to Pictures, for Southsea, evenings only. Terms, 35s. Open Monday next. Wire, STUART, 167, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, First-class Solo Violinists, Solo 'Cellists, and Solo Pianists, for pictures only; must be soloists; ladies and gentlemen. Apply, by letter only, to EARLE & EARLE, 9-10, Little Earl-street, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.C.

WANTED, Immediately, Reliable and Competent Violinist for high-class Cinema Trio in Hoylake, Cheshire. State age, experience, and lowest terms for evenings only. CONDUCTOR, 8, Grosvenor-place, Chester.

WANTED, Violiniet (permanency) for Theatre and Tea Rooms; terms.
Apply, HOWGILL,
Pavilion, Weymouth.

WANTED, Lady Violin or 'Cello Soloist, for Musical Act; commence immediately. Wire or write, stating terms, to HARRY S. SHARP, Palace, Reading.

THEATRE ROYAL, PONTYPOOL.
WANTED, Cornet, Trombone, Flute and Piccolo. Age, references, lowest terms, &c., to PITT, T.R., Pontypool. Mon.

WANTED, for Military Band (Garrison Duty only), First Cornet, First Clarinet, Euphonium, B B flat and B flat Basses, Bassoon, Bass Drummer. Apply, J. WHITE, Bandmaster, 2nd Garrison Battalion, R.W.F., Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire.

WANTED, Solo Cornet. Must be experienced. Age and refs. to
F. H. JEPSON, Mus. Dir.,
The Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Wanted, Cornet, for Pitching. Terms, shares.
Will Ike Herbert write? MARTIN, 21, Alverton street, Penzance.

KING'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
WANTED, Double Bass, A.M.U., to open Dec. 27. Must be good. Terms, refs., &c., to SAMUEL WRIGHT, Mus. Dir.

WANTED, E flat or BB flat Bass for Reserve Batt. Rifle Brigade.

Home Service.
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Extra band pay.
Charrington Hall,
Charrington-street, St. Pancras.

WANTED, Bass, Clarinet, Cornet, Trombone, Drums, to open Jan. 3. Terms, 35s. per week; half salaries, matinées. J. H. STEVENS, Musical Director, Dixon-street, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, Wanted, Good Trombone; permanency to good man.

WILL SMITHSON, Empire, Barnsley.

BOURNEMOUTH MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA.
WANTED, Immediately First Trombone. If possible, combine Euphonium.
Must be first-class, experienced player.
Apply, with references, to
DAN GODFREY, Director of Music,
Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED immediately, good 'Cello and Bass for Pictures. Must be first-class. Hours, 3 till 5, and 7 till 10. Apply, MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Imperial Cinema House, 18, Nicolson-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, 'Cellist, to open Dec. 27. Must be experienced in variety business. Apply, stating terms, references, &c.,
D. J. CLARKE, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, good Solo Euphonium Player for Enlistment in Band, R.M.C., age limit 35 years; single man preferred; double-handed if possible. Apply, JOHN AMERS, Bandmaster, Royal Military College, Sandhurst, Camberley.

NEW THEATRE, CAMBRIDGE.
WANTED, to open at once, good 'Cello, Varieties and ordinary Theatre work. Age, refs. and salary, CONDUCTOR, 33, Glisson-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, Good 'Cellist, Lady or Gent., for Regent Theatre, Great Yarmouth; pictures and varieties; salary, £2 5s.; permanency; open at once. FRANK THOMAS, 43 Princes-road, Gt. Yarmouth.

TORQUAY MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA.
WANTED, Flute, at once, Flat pitch; salary £2 9s. Must be used to Concert work.
Apply, MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Pavilion.

WANTED, good, experienced Flautist and Piccolo; also 'Cellist and Trombone; vaudeville, twice nightly; open immediately; Union rate; must be reliable and efficient. Apply, with references,
ALEX. GALLEY, Manager,
Empire Palace,
Wolverhampton.

WANTED, good Orchestral Organist for Brixton Cinema.
Call immediately,
STUART, 167, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, Pianist, also Pianist-Organist; evenings only; two matinées; no Sundays; must be good sight readers. Address, 45, Salisbury-road, Walthamstow. 'Phone: Walthamstow 530.

WANTED, Young Lady Pianiste; experienced orchestra, pictures; Cardiff; permanency. Lowest terms, particulars, AGNES NEWTON, Lane Ends, Osbaldiston, Blackburn.

WANTED, at once, Lady Pianiste for pictures and Gentleman Pianist for music hall. Call to-day, 11 a.m. or 2 p.m., at 3, Willoughby-street, British Museum.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Carlisle, good Drummer, with tymps. and effects; A.M.U. terms. Age, references, to EDWARD WILLIAMS, Musical Director.

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The Entertainments Committee of the Rhyl Urban District Council invite Tenders for the supplying of an Orchestra of 14 performers, to play in the Pavilion and Gardens, Rhyl, from July 23 to Sept. 3, 1916, both dates inclusive.

The Orchestra will be required to play twice daily in the Gardens, and in the Pavilion in the evening, for the purposes of Variety Performances and Vocal and Orchestral Concerts; also to play at the Sacred Concerts on Sunday evening.

Tenders to be addressed to the undersigned at his office, Pavilion, Rhyl, not later than Jan. 6 next.
(Signed) J. W. JONES, Manager.

N.B.—The Orchestra must not include any members who are eligible for service in the Army.

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WANTED Known, Vacancies, good Amateur Players, both sexes. Violins, Violas, 'Cellos, Basses, Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, Bassoons, Horns, Euphonium, Trumpets, Drums, Harp. No sub. Rehearsals, Thursdays, 7.30. Victoria Embankment, Concerts, Queen's Hall, &c. Write, SECRETARY, 1, Worcester-street, S.W.

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WANTED, Musical Directors and Managers to write at once to
THE LONDON MUSIC LENDING LIBRARY.
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WANTED, Engagement by MUSICAL DIRECTOR.
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3, Willoughby-street, British Museum.
Only first-class performers with best experience are supplied, any number, with large library, including a Piano or Solo Violin Conductor.
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WANTED, by Experienced Conductor, Engagement with Revue or Musical Comedy; just relinquished post as Musical Director with Espinosa's "S'nice" Revue, after five months' tour. Capable Pianist and Orchestrator. Good offers invited. Can open at once.
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WANTED, by well-known and popular Conductor, baton, or piano and baton, Engagement; composer and arranger; theatre, variety, revue, musical comedy, &c., &c. Highest possible references; A.M.U. "The most rousing thing in the programme was the performance of the Allied Anthems by Mr. C. E. Howells' excellent orchestra, which evoked great enthusiasm."—Referee, Aug. 29, 1915. Wire or write, 35, Dornton-road, Balham, S.W.

WANTED, Wanted, Engagement, First Violin.
Good refs.
Box 5,156, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady Violinist desires Engagement; theatre, variety, or pictures; just finished 16 months' engagement as leader, Hippodrome, Richmond; expert soloist; magnificent instrument; everything of the best; young, good appearance; own Trio or Quartette; A.M.U. MABEL HOWELLS, 35, Dornton-road, Balham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement by Young Lady Violiniste. High-class Orchestral Musician and brilliant Soloist. Salary, £3 3s.
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WANTED, Engagement, First-class Violinist; good solid tone, brilliant and experienced; music hall or kinema; near Liverpool or Midlands preferred. Address, Box 5,157, "The Era."

WANTED Known, Clarinet, now terminating Engagement at Palace Pier. E flat.
MARSTON,
18, Fernville-street, Chester-road, Sunderland.

WANTED, a little Deputy Work by Experienced English 'Cellist; in or near Liverpool; before touring abroad; low salary; experienced all [illegible] 'CELLO, 36, Pilmsoll-street, Liverpool.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement by First-class Solo Cornettist, late Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, and Manchester Hippo. None but good offers entertained. BRIANT-SOMERS, 12, Grafton-road, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

WANTED Known, Trombone or Euphonium, now fulfilling important Orchestral Engagement in Edinburgh. At liberty Jan. 10 next. Any business. Distance no object. J. A. ROBERTS, 17, Montgomery-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, by Lady Pianiste, Engagement, Hotel, Cinema. Thoroughly experienced. Address, PIANISTE, 14, West View, Highgate Hill, N.

WANTED, by Pianist, brilliant, position in cinema; sight reader; used to playing with others; extensive library; composition and arrangements if required. H. D., 35, Queen's-road, Peckham.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Drummer Tymps, Bells, including other instruments. Box 5,159, "The Era."

WANTED Known, Known Trio disengaged Monday. Refined Musicians, Violin, Cornet (gents), Pianiste (lady); library; experienced all lines; refs. Wire, CONDUCTOR, 4, West-end Villas, Stamford.

WANTED, by Experienced Cinema Trio (Violin, 'Cello and Piano) Soloists. Highest refs. Extensive classical and up-to-date répertoire. Offers to CONDUCTOR, 1, Pavilion-st., Doncaster.

THE CASINO ORCHESTRA.
WANTED, Engagement, either as Trio, Quartette, or Small Band, for Cinemas, &c. Can be heard where working if desired. Large library of up-to-date and classical music. Fully experienced. A. REEVE, 30, The Avenue, Brucegrove, London, N.

WANTED Known, ROSE VALLY'S "Mascot" Ladies Orchestra, for Theatres, Exhibitions, Restaurants, Cinemas, &c. Any number. 361, Camden-road, London. 'Phone, 1718 North.

WANTED Known, Imperial Ladies' Orchestras, for Piers, Cinemas, Hotels
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For further Wanted Advertisements see Page 28.

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These calls are communicated by the management for the convenience of Artistes without prejudice.

CALLS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 3, 1916.

No Deputies will be accepted at Rehearsals. Any Artistes absenting themselves will be liable to have their contracts cancelled.

THE LONDON HIPPODROME.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
"Joy-Land!" and Company as booked.

EMPIRE, FINSBURY PARK.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Company as booked.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Will Van Allen, Arthur Lennard.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Baby Helen, Chas. Cohan, Frank Le Dent, Caron Troupe.

BROADWAY T., NEW CROSS.
Closed for Alterations.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON.
(Matinees Mon., Thurs. and Sat. at 2.30).
Rehearsal at 11.30 a.m. for:—
Bros. Gaumando, Valerie Lipinski and Little Olga, Elsee Brett and Dix.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Dora Lyric, Dolly Victoria Troupe, Fields and Coco, Chester Kingston.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Sammy Shields, Chas. Mildare.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Jean Kram, Dandy George.

PANOPTICON, CARDIFF.
Picture Entertainments, &c.

OLYMPIA, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—
Nellie Sylvester, Daisy Ray, Kenny and Astin.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Harry Brown, Cissie Cave, Clifton and Daisy.

EMPIRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
George Newburn, Darell and Conway, Wee Georgie Beck, De Wynne Bros., Jose de Moraes.

GRAND, GLASGOW.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Company as booked.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Ted Hopkins, Sisters Sprightly, Jackson Potter, Frank Wilson, Andy Lace.

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Jack Sterzelly, Terriss and Romaine, Molly Wells, Meteor Trio, Scott Gibson, Kate Avigny.

NEW PALACE, SUMMERHILL, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—
Salamonsky Swar, Cyril Osmond, The Orchids.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Company as booked.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Circus.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Tom Jones, Jimmy Britt, Belle Davis, Magini.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
O'Gorman Bros., Jack Lorimer, Stella Stahl.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
5 Olracs, Irene Millar, Bi-Bo-Bi.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
De Marest, Cooper and Lait, Macdonald and Payne, Cissie Lupino, Alphonso Silvano, Vardell Bros.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Resident Director: Mr. Richard Thornton.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Company as booked.

EMPIRE THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Braine and Reeve, Larry Lewis, Violet Stockelle.

NEW EMPIRE CINEMA, NEWCASTLE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA.
Rehearsal at 1.30 p.m. for:—
Carpatti Bros., Miss Hendricks, Mamie Russell.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Alberta Flahey, David Poole, "Don't Crush."

EMPIRE PALACE, S. SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Ike and Will Scott's Pantomime, "Babes in the Wood."

EMPIRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Brothers Geddes, Ethel Entwistle, Sados, "All Women."

HER MAJESTY'S T., WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Company as booked.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Company as booked.

GRAND PICTURE HOUSE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—
Company as booked.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
"Cinderella."

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Artistes' Business must be absolutely free from vulgarity.

Special provision has been made at each Theatre for the exhibition of loose Photographs. Artistes are invited to supply these to the Manager on reaching the Theatre, and they will be returned in good condition at the end of the week.

Scenery and Properties must be fireproofed to approval of Local Authorities.

Applications for Engagements by Artistes or their Agents must be addressed to Head Office. State salaries required for (a) West End, (b) Suburban, (c) Large, and (d) Small Provincial Halls. A list of existing engagements must be enclosed. Artistes are requested to accredit only one Agent at the same time and to notify the Company immediately of any change of Agents.

Silence a polite negative.

Artistes desirous of submitting their Acts at private auditions should communicate with Head Office.

Matinees are held every Wednesday at the **Empire Theatre, South Shields,** at which new acts may be presented. Applications should be made to the Manager at the Theatre.

Engagements of Artistes are subject to cancellation if the following requirements are not observed:—

(1) Matter for bills and programmes, blocks, specimens of pictorials (if any) and a list of engagements with (a) in the case of singers, copies of the songs and patter, (b) in the case of sketch proprietors copies of the scripts as licensed and copies of the Lord Chamberlain's Licence, must be sent to Head Office three weeks at least before opening.

(2) Artistes must attend rehearsals; no deputies being accepted.

Important Notice to Artistes and Agents. When an Artiste or Act having previously played on the Moss' Empire Tour, is re-engaged for further dates, the contracts will be sent to the Agent who negotiated the last engagement, unless notice has been received from the Artiste that this is not desired.

Contracts and Orders. No contracts or orders for services or goods will be recognised unless upon an Official Form issued from Head Office and signed by the **Managing Director** or **Business Manager,** and the Company concerned may refuse payment for all services rendered or goods supplied except in accordance with this notice.

Invoices must be sent to the Theatre or Department to which goods are supplied, but monthly statements must be sent to Head Office.

The Company on whose behalf Contracts or Orders are signed is solely responsible for payment.

The Company will not hold itself responsible for loss or damage to Manuscripts, Songs, etc., submitted or sent to it for any purpose.

Mr. FRANK ALLEN, *Managing Director*
Mr. A. P. DE COURVILLE, *Assistant to Managing Director and Booking Manager for the London Hippodrome.*
Mr. ERNEST WIGHTON, *Booking Manager for the Tour.*
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WHITTLE, CHAS. R.
Comedian.
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YAMAMOTO and MISS KOYOSHI TROUPE. Japanese Equilibrists and Entertainers. This, Theatre Royal, Pontypool. Vacant, Jan. 3, onwards.

CONCERT ARTISTES.

The Rates for Concert Artistes' Cards in this column are as follows:—
Three Lines for One Insertion, 6d. Thirteen Insertions, 5s. 0d. Additional Lines pro rata.

MAURICE ARIOSO,
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Humorous Songs and Stories.
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Chairman & Managing Director, OSWALD STOLL.

Secretary and Chief Accountant, W. S. GORDON MICHIE.
ARTISTES' DEPARTMENT: Negotiations—A. D. DAVIS; Dates—LLEWELLYN JOHNS.
Address all communications to the Managing Director.

CALLS FOR JANUARY 3, 1916.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.
Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—
Mme. Sarah Bernhardt in "Les Cathedrales," Vesta Tilley, Seymour Hicks and Isobel Elsom in "The Bridal Suite," The Grumblers, Imperial Russian Ballet, Anne Godfrey, Cornalla and Eddie, Pasquali, Les Trombetta, Bioscope.

THE NEW MIDDLESEX.
Rehearsal at 11 a.m. for:—
"All Spoof," Vivian Foster, Edith Fink, Sims and Hurste, Bioscope.

THE HACKNEY EMPIRE.
Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—
Viviana's Toyshop, Du Callion, Auber, Dan O. Scott, "The Case of Johnny Walker," Mazuz and Mazette, Bioscope.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.
Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—
Mannie Gibert, Clown Barker, Frank Manra, Bioscope.

THE CHISWICK EMPIRE.
Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—
Naval Quartette, Doris' Russian Bears, Houssein, The Elliott Savonas, Johnson Clark, Pauline Travis, The Dennisons, Bioscope.

WOOD GREEN EMPIRE.
Rehearsal at 12.30 p.m. for:—
Cole de Losse, The Avolos, May Moore Duprez, Murphy and Mack, Diana and Len Grey, George Ross, Frank H. Fox, George Rymer, Bioscope.

CHATHAM EMPIRE.
Rehearsal at 2 p.m. for:—
"Love Birds," The Aberdares, Speedwell, Bioscope.

BRISTOL HIPPODROME.
Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—
Bert Lytton, Jen Latona, Alaskas, Bioscope.

BEDMINSTER HIPPODROME.
Pictures and Varieties.

THE LEICESTER PALACE.
Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—
Happy Tom Parker, O'Hanlon and Rivkin, Little Freddie Hackin, Bioscope.

THE ARDWICK EMPIRE.
Rehearsal at 12.30 p.m. for:—
"Robinson Crusoe," Bioscope.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME.
Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—
"5064 Gerrard."

FLORAL HALL, LEICESTER.
Pictures.

NOTE.—Artistes engaged at any of the above theatres should send photos for display in front of the house to Manager, to be returned at the end of the week.

NOTE.—All Sketches played at the above theatres must be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and a copy of the licence, together with script as licensed, must be sent to the Stoll Offices at least 21 days before date of performance.

Arrangements for additional Theatres include—
FULHAM HIPPODROME.

The distance as the crow flies between the Finsbury Park Empire and the Wood Green Empire, measured on the Ordnance Survey Map, is 2 miles 60 yards.—Edward Stanford.

BAND PARTS REQUIRED.—14 different parts for English Orchestrations and 17 for Foreign Orchestrations. London Coliseum and Manchester Hippodrome require 20 parts, including 3 first violins, extra 'cello and bass and extra piano part for harp if not scored for.

ADVERTISING MATTER.—Bills, Blocks, Photographs, and specimens of Pictorials really representing the Act, should be forwarded three weeks before opening. If return of photographs required, please say so.

STAGE DEPARTMENT.—Songs proposed to be sung should be submitted, and special stage requirements stated, in letters marked "Stage Department," by Artistes three weeks before opening.

COARSENESS, VULGARITY, &c., is not allowed. The Licensing Authorities forbid this and the majority of the public resent it. This intimation is only rendered necessary by a very few Artistes.

ARTISTES' SCENERY AND PROPERTIES must be fireproofed or they cannot be brought into the Theatre. This is by order of the Licensing Authorities.

BUSINESS NOTICE OF GENERAL APPLICATION.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the above Theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form issued from the Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll or the Secretary, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases where goods are required at once suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within 48 hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the above Head Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration

THE

LONDON SYNDICATE HALLS

PROVIDING CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENTS FOR ARTISTES AT THE MOST IMPORTANT VARIETY THEATRES IN THE LONDON AREA.

General Administrative Offices:

25, CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.

Telephone Nos., Gerrard 5654 and 2619.

Calls for Monday, January 3, 1916.

LONDON PAVILION.
Rehearsal at 11.30.
Jean Fabert's Revue "Honi Soit . . !"
Harry Tate & Co., R. G. Knowles, Frederic Norton, George D'Albert, Leslie Glenroy, Bioscope.

OXFORD.
Rehearsal at 12.
Marie Lloyd, Walter Bentley's Revue "Odds On," Jock McKay, Daunton Shaw Troupe, Harry Webber, Bert Errol, Devon and Earle, Bioscope.

METROPOLITAN.
Rehearsal at 12.15.
Conrad and Zeitlin's Co., "The Million Dollar Girl," Madam Gautier, Four Powers, Weston and Lynch, Dorothy Grey, Percy Dalton, Bioscope.

CHELSEA.
Rehearsal at 12.
Chas. Hanbury and Johnny Schofield in "His Last Night Out," Marie Kendal, Jock McKay, George D'Albert, Van Dock, Halma, The Junes, Victor and George, Bioscope, etc.

EUSTON.
Rehearsal at 12.
R. G. Knowles, Ruby De Fontenoy, Walter Royd and Co., Harold Montague, Helen Moray, McIvor and Scott, Percy Dalton, Van Dock, Essie, Bioscope.

SOUTH LONDON.
Rehearsal at 12.
Boyde & Brinkworth's Company "It's the Goods," Marie Kendall, Dale and O'Malley, A. C. Astor, Bon Air Troupe, Bioscope.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.
Rehearsal at 1.

EAST HAM.
Rehearsal at 12.
Harry Burns' Pantomime "The Forty Thieves."

TOTTENHAM.
Rehearsal at 2.
Herbert F. Crump presents Grand Christmas Pantomime "Dick Whittington."

BRIXTON EMPRESS.
Rehearsal at 12.
Sidney Burns and Co.'s Novel Musical Mixture "Don't Tempt Me," Frank Armstrong, French and Wade, Lily Burnand, Bioscope.

WATFORD PALACE.
Rehearsal at 1.
J. Bannister Howard presents "Little Red Riding Hood."

These Calls are communicated by the Management for the information of Artistes without prejudice.

MISS MARIE LLOYD.

This, OXFORD and METROPOLITAN.

Next, OXFORD and CHELSEA.

Sole Representative, Walter Bentley.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA

Queen of Domestic Comedy.

Address, Milton Hall, Loughborough-park, Brixton, S.W.

Hugo Success on Tour.
"Emmie's Christmas Tree."

EMMIE AMES.

Per address, Hippodrome, Wisbech.

'Phone, Wisbech 116.

FLORRIE FORDE.

On Tour.

RENE RALPH.

Principal Boy,
PRINCES THEATRE, BRADFORD

Enormous success.

Vacant for Spring Tour, 1916.
Offers invited for first-class Revue.

ARTISTES' AGENTS.

MADAME MAY WALTER'S

Variety and Dramatic Agency.
46, Fitzroy-street, W.
'Phone, Museum 2464.

Orchestras (Ladies and Gents.). Repertoire, 3,000.

"A Singer of all Her Own Songs."
The Versatile Comedienne.

MISS LILLIE LANGTRY.

"ALADDIN."
Principal Boy.
L.T.V. Circuit.
London.

MISS DAISY JAMES.

Everybody's Favourite.

As Dick Whittington.
This week, HIPPODROME, LEWISHAM.
Jan. 3, EMPIRE, KILBURN.

Coms., 65, Sudbourne-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
'Phone, 2115 Brixton.

COURTICE MITCHELL,

of the London Coliseum, &c.
Song and Story at the Piano.
Phone, Chiswick 1112, and
Ashton's Royal Agency.

This week
PORTSMOUTH.

TOM CLARE.

The Entertainer at the Piano.

Next week, EDINBURGH.

"Bad as you are."
"Bad as you are," by Tom Goldbura.

MR. ARTHUR LENNARD.

ON TOUR.

WILKIE BARD.

Dec. 27, KING'S, SOUTHSEA.

"Mr. Bottomley," Mr. P. Weston.
"The Villain Still Pursued Her," Weston and H. Darewski.

"Commercial," Weston and Bert Lee.
(Francis and Day.)

MARK SHERIDAN.

This week, HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Authors Note.—Money for Brains.
Peels', Ltd.

Latest, "Including Costs."
"Including Costs."
"Including Costs."
Written by Wal Pink. Music by J. S. Baker.

JOE ELVIN.

Presenting "Including Costs."

GULLIVER CIRCUIT.

MR. BRANSBY WILLIAMS.

This and next week, PALLADIUM.

Business Manager, Ernest Edelsten.

T. E. DUNVILLE.

London always.
Gulliver's Travels, 4 trips nightly.
Letters, c/o "The Era."
Sole Agent, Mr. Walter Bentley.

"Follow the Drum."

MR. F. V. ST. CLAIR.

"Stick to Kitchener."
Great success everywhere.
No vacant dates this year.
Booked most of 1916.
Always something new.
Gulliver's London Halls.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Punch and Judy Show and Vent. Act, for children's entertainment, Jan. 1; very lowest. Pte. WILSON ROBERTS, 19th London Regt., Drill Hall, Camden Town, N.W.

WANTED to Sell, Automatic Machines, the Latest Novelties and Best Money-takers. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London, W. Established 1887.

WANTED Known, Clowns. Legal Clowns. Return coin. Latest novelty; 2d. in slot; £5 10s. Send at once. Selling faster than Check Clown. MONTAGUE, 76, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED Known, have One-Act Dramatic and Comedy Plays, Duologues, Sketch (with good Comedian's part), Plays, Songs, &c., written to order. F. WARREN, 4, Lismore-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED, to Sell, Children's Playlet Bookings, "The House of Douglas"; child dancer could be featured; suitable curtain raiser, for Christmas; Press praise.

STUDIO, 105, Ramsden-road, Balham.

WANTED Known, to Stage Managers and Agents, Advertiser has Clever Scene for revue, with Five Songs and Choruses; written by wounded officer. Write, W., Box 5,131, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Fantasies, Suites, Ballets, Entr'actes, &c., for piano and full orchestra (new condition). Stamp for lists. SHURMAN, 2, Beaumont-crescent, W. Kensington.

WANTED, to Sell, old Hill Violin, good condition.

"Berwyn," Grecian-crescent, Upper Norwood.

WANTED to Sell, Tip-up Pegamoid Chairs, fully upholstered; most genuine; no catch; 3s. 3d., including gold-bronzed standards. Actual maker HELLENBRAND, 113, New North-road, Islington, London.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted to Sell, Gramophone;
£25 Model Drawing-room Cabinet;
very dainty; height 4 feet, on wheels;
beautifully inlaid;
perfect tone;
with Selection of Celebrated Records;
accept £5 15s.
Approval with pleasure.
5, Upper Porchester-street, Hyde Park, London.

WANTED TO BUY.

WANTED, Second-hand Stage Dress and Suits in good condition;
also Indian Girls' Dresses.
49, Tottenham Court-road.

WANTED TO LET OR HIRE.

WANTED to Let, "A Woman's Past," "Soldier and a Man," "What a Man Made Her," "In a Man's Grip," "A Girl's Good Luck," Sutton Vane, Frank Harvey, Mary Neill's Dramas. WEATHERSBYS, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

WANTED to Let, Large Rehearsal Room, with Piano, &c., any period during the day; 2 minutes Portland-road Station. Tel., 2417 Mayfair. Moderate terms. 30, Albany-street, N.W.

WANTED to Let, Large Club-room, with use of Piano; suitable for Rehearsals.

Apply, HENRY SAMMONS,
Mercers' Arms, Castle-street, Long-acre, W.C.

WANTED, to Let, for Rehearsals, Clubs, &c., Large Room, 45ft. by 30ft.; good Piano; smooth pine floor; well ventilated; good accommodation; two entrances; 1s. 6d. per hour. Apply, WOODER, "Bay Malton," 160, Great Portland-street, W. 'Phone 2943 Mayfair.

WANTED, to Rent, Picture Theatre or Hall, suitable in or near London preferred. State full particulars by letter, MANAGER, 75, Church-road, Leyton, N.E.

PARTNERS WANTED.

WANTED, Partner for New Revue; splendid opportunity offered; Lady or Gent. able to play part in same. Apply, THOMAS, 248, Camberwell-road, S.E.

BAND PARTS, SONGS, Etc.

WANTED, Artistes who require Superb Orchestration, write or call, C. E. HOWELLS, 35, Dornton-road, Balham, S.W.
All work guaranteed.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED

HARVEY AND STANTON'S COMBINATIONS.
WANTED, Acts, Big and Small, Monday, onwards; Midland dates.
GEORGE HARVEY,
New Coliseum, Derby.

KENDALL'S AGENCY, "Regent House," Regent-st., Leicester. Phone 4214.
Telegrams: "Mascots, Leicester."
WANTED, Acts, every description, Monday onward.

MACKAY'S AGENCY.

Offices,
7, Borestone-crescent,
St. Ninians, Stirling.

Telephone: 185 Stirling.
and
15, Charles-street, Dundee.
Telephone: 2593 Dundee.

WANTED, Tops, Bottoms, Middles, Juvenile Troupes, Musical Acts, Speciality Acts, Comedy Duos, Sketches, and Comedians, for Scotland.

Jan., Feb., March and April.

All replies to Head Office, Stirling.

WANTED, Musical Acts, Vocal and Instrumental. Specialising in musical acts, by one qualified to know them. ROYAL MUSICAL AGENCY, Newmills.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED

WANTED, Variety Artistes, all Lines. Artistes working North of Scotland communicate.

AUBREY, Pavilion, Wick, N.B.

JOHN E. WEST'S VAUDEVILLE AGENCY, 144, Wellington-street, Glasgow.

'Phone 744 Douglas.
WANTED, Acts of Every Description. Absolute lowest terms and full list of bookings, &c.

GIBB'S AGENCY,
112, Cambridge-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wanted, Acts, all kinds. Artistes coming North should keep us posted. Immediate Dates for Good Comedy and Vocal Acts. Send date-sheet, lowest terms, and perm. address. 'Phone 796 Douglas. Tel. add.: "Musicale, Glasgow."

"LADS IN KHAKI, LADS IN BLUE, TRAINING IN SWANAGE THEIR DUTY TO DO."
WANTED, Star Turns and Others to do their Bit by Offering this management lowest terms for one or two weeks certain. Six evening performances, one matinée.

Vacant Dates, Dec. 20, 27, Jan. 3, 10.

Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, the above for Camp Theatre, Swanage, Bijou Orchestra, First Violin and Second; also 'Cello. Band parts as well as piano score. Stage 22ft. by 12ft.; electric light throughout; no limelights; strong footlights. Wire direct, Variety, Swanage.
Wire to MRS. NORMAN BURROWS, General and Business Manager for THE ARMY AND NAVY VARIETY CO., Camp Theatre, Swanage; or to the London representative, FRED HIGHAM.

'Phone 39 Brixton.

HARRY LEATON'S AGENCY,
420, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow.
Telephone, Douglas 3142.
Telegrams, "Cockney, Glasgow."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Top, Bottoms, Middles, Artistes of Every Description, for all parts of the country, for Immediate and Future Dates

Write immediately, fullest particulars, date-sheet, and lowest terms.

WANTED, Artistes of every description; Big and Small Acts; immediate and future dates. We can get the dates for approved Acts. Please send full bookings from Dec. 27, onwards, and lowest terms first instance. All Artistes known to us please write quickly.
DURHAM AND IVES,
Theatrical and Variety Agents,
400, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

Telephone, Brixton 2057.

MILNE'S VAUDEVILLE AGENCY,
135, Wellington-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Acts and Specialities of every description for Immediate and Future Dates. Acts with odd weeks for Ireland write.

Date-sheets, litho., photos, and lowest terms, first letter.

WANTED, Good Comedy Tops and Bottoms, Monday next and future dates; also good Comediennes, Sister Acts, Singing Comedians; acts known to me invited to communicate; present clients kindly keep me posted. Wanted, few Good Star Acts, not solely represented, to complete new 1916 book previous to provincial tour. FRANK ROYCE'S THEATRICAL & VARIETY AGENCY, 45 and 46, Chandos-street, Charing Cross, London, W.C. 'Phone, Regent 5529. 'Grams, "Knarfoyce, London."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Artistes for Camp Concert, Saturday.
SULLINGS AND CO.,
George's-street, Ipswich.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

Scotch Comedienne and Speciality Dancer.
WANTED, by JEAN BRODIE, Jan. 3. An Artiste who "gets there" every time. This, c/o 105, St. George's-road, Southwark, London.

WANTED, by Dainty DORIS PHILLIPS, Child Comedienne and Dancer, Jan. 3 and 10. Thanks Bessie Bryar, Zahl's Agency, and L. Conway for offers. P.A., Birchwood, Higher Heath, Whitchurch (Salop). Wires, Birchwood, Prees (Salop).

WANTED, Monday next and Jan. 10. DOLLY RAY, London's Daintiest Comedienne. Just finished two weeks, London Pavilion. With own pianiste, scenery, and all new songs. Coms., Canterbury Music Hall, London, S.E. Wires, "Enjoyable, London." 'Phone Hop. 726.

WANTED, Monday next, Jan. 3 and 10. Wire. THE SISTERS REXO,
Vocalists and Speciality Dancers. Vacant, Monday, Jan. 3 and 10. Wire, Hippo., Wrexham.

WANTED Known, LES FEMINA HARMONICAS, Lady Operatic and Harmony Singers. This week, top of Bill, Empire, Wrexham. Wire for Monday, Jan. 3; also 24, 31.

WANTED, Wanted, Jan. 10 and 17, by KITTY STEWART,
In Original Novelty Comedy Songs at the Piano. A Feature Act with a Reputation. Two kinds of attractive 6-sheets by David Allen, Belfast.
This week, Palace, Cresswell (Derbys.). Next, Empire, Bedford.

WANTED, next Monday, also Jan. 10, by T. E. JOHNSTONE,
T. E. JOHNSTONE,
Actor-Vocalist, in Comedy Chorus Songs and Song-Scena, "Wellington." Own illuminated cloth. Just finished successful engagements at Bedford Palace, London, Bristol, Newton Abbot, Bury, Dover, Treorchy, Wednesbury, West Stanley, Kettering, Accrington, Leicester. Many thanks to managers for extraordinary number of wires and letters last week. Sorry fixed early. Wire or write, Palace, Halesowen.

WANTED, Monday next.
HASSAN, Novel Comedy Act.
Laughter-making Magical Effects.
Wire, Hippo., Chorley.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Jan. 10, 24, 31, by THE SISTERS WEBB
(Tina and Inga).
Brilliant and Refined Musical Speciality.
Vint's Palace, Llanelly, S. Wales.
All coms., JOJO WEBB,
38, Cromwell-road, Kingston-on-Thames.
Next, 38, Queen's-street, Cradley Heath, Staffs.

The Midlands Dainty,
MABEL ROSS, Comedienne and Expert Dancer.
WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 10. Wire best offers, 52, Hutton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Jan. 10, 17, and Feb. 7.
THE GREAT MAURITUS.
THE GREAT MAURITUS.
THE GREAT MAURITUS.
THE GREAT MAURITUS.
THE GREAT MAURITUS.
The Famous Handcuff King and Jail Breaker.
All coms., WAVERLEY, Carnival, Edinburgh.

JOHNNY McELROY
In the Twenty Minutes' Side-splitter,
"HELPING A PAL."
"HELPING A PAL."

WANTED, Jan. 3, and 10.
Wire for Jan. 3 and 10.
Wire for Jan. 3 and 10.

Wire, Empire, Rugby.

WANTED, Jan. 3. Jan. 3, by J. W. HALL,
Comedian.
This week, Empire, Rochdale.

WANTED, by GENE FIELDS, the Burlesque Patter and Musical Comedian. Vacant next week. Coliseum, Derby.

TILBURY and VERE,
TILBURY and VERE,
Tenor and Contralto.
In a Brilliant Vocal and Harmonising Act.
WANTED, Monday next, and Jan. 10. This, Public Hall, Darwen. Wire, 1, Sudell-rd.

WANTED, Monday next and Jan. 10. Wanted, Monday next and Jan. 10.
WYN GERRARD and Her Dancer, BILLY KRAY.
WYN GERRARD and Her Dancer, BILLY KRAY.
Positively the "climax" of all Harmony and Trick Dancing Acts.
Gorgeous Parisian Gowns of special interest to ladies. Beautiful Scenery specially painted for this act.
An Act of Faultless Quality.
Wire, Market Theatre, Aylesbury.

WANTED, Monday next and Jan. 10. THE FROHMANS.
In their Great Xylophone and Violin Act.
Wire, George Hotel, Old Hill, Staffs.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 10, 17, SILVO and SYLVIA.
Great Musical Novelty Act. Good draw.
This week, Palace, Sale, near Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, Monday next, KLOOF AND WAYLETT,
Eccentric Comedy Musical Duo. Wire, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Monday, two Distinct acts (salary or share), refined Vocalist and Chorus Singer, MONA DE GRAY, also WILLIE B. SMARTE, Light Comedian and Dancer. Wire, Theatre, Yorkley, Glos.

WANTED, Monday next, by FRANK AND ELSIE.
Delightfully Different Dancers.
Wire, 9, Dean-street, Aberdare.

WANTED, Wanted, Jan 3, 10, 17, by MARQUIS AND TRULY.
MARQUIS AND TRULY.
the Acrobatic Droll, the Soubrette, and a Piano.
A Clean, Clever, Artistic, Original Speciality.
Clean Comedy, Clever Piano Items.
First-class Tumbling and Dancing &c.
Wire, 3, Park-road, Chorley, Lancs.

BERT WILLIAMS,
Ventriloquist.
WANTED, Monday next.
Wire, Alhambra, Leith.

WANTED, Immediate Dates, by VALVO, up-to-date Ventriloquist; Novel Refined Act. For sure success, wire,
34, Amberley-street, Bradford.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 3, also Jan. 10, by MADAM VALLO, Queen of Second Sight Artistes; also DR. HOWARD, Illusionist, and Electrical Hypnotist Mystery. Wire or write, HOWARD, This, County Theatre, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Vacant Monday next, Jan. 3, by AMOR and ROMA.
AMOR and ROMA.
Great Harmony and Comedy Novelty, "The Sailor and Lady Aboard Ship."
Comedy Props. Scenery. Gorgeous Set.
Vacant Monday.
Vacant Monday.
Jan. 3 and 10.
Enormous success and Bottom of the Bill, Star attraction.
Wire quick, Royalty Theatre, Chester.
After Saturday, P.A., 27, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W.

BRIFF, BRAFF, and BROFF.
BRIFF, BRAFF, and BROFF.

WANTED, Jan. 17, 24 Feb. 14, 21.
This week, Palace, Halifax.
Next week, Waverley Market, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Monday next, MILLY and GORDON TRIO, Sensational Acrobatic and Novelty Dancing Speciality. Wire, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED Known, NAPIER TRIO, Vacant Monday next, Jan. 3.

Palace, Sunderland.

WANTED Known, Wanted Known,
FOUR BENEDICTS
FOUR BENEDICTS
FOUR BENEDICTS
FOUR BENEDICTS
FOUR BENEDICTS
FOUR BENEDICTS
FOUR BENEDICTS
(late Four Bachelors).
Harmony Experts and Soloists.

This, Palace, Halifax.
Vacant, Monday next,
Jan. 10, 17.

Wire offers.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, Jan. 3. Wanted, Jan. 3, Jan. 3.
Wire, Scala Theatre, Boston, Lincs.
Wire, Scala Theatre, Boston, Lincs.
The Great RHODE AND ROCHE, featuring that acknowledged Novelty and clever Comedy Pot-pourri Act, "The Chameleon, The Artist, and It." Own set. Always a sure draw and big success anywhere. Topping bill again. Also vacant Jan. 10, 17, 24. After Saturday, 113, Ferndale-road, Clapham-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Jan. 10, 17, 24, by THE BROS. WEBB
(Jojo and Ruté).
World-Renowned Comedy Musicians.
Empire, Kingston-on-Thames.
Next, Royal Elec. P., Cradley Heath, Staffs.
Business Manager, JOJO WEBB.

WANTED, Monday next, and later, Wanted Monday next and later.
LES TRIPPELLOS.
LES TRIPPELLOS.
LES TRIPPELLOS.
World-famous Musical and Vocal Quartette, with a bunch of new 1916 "Ensemble" numbers. Guaranteed to impress every class of audience.
COMPLETE CHANGE OF ACT MID-WEEK.
Special full sets of scenery and effects carried.
Save us big fare and you can have it. See.
Wires, TRIPPELLO, Theatre, Pontypool.

WANTED, Engagements, Jan. 3 and 10, by The FIVE MUSICAL TRITONS.
The FIVE MUSICAL TRITONS.
The FIVE MUSICAL TRITONS.
Gorgeous, Spectacular, Musical Act.
This week, Palace, Bedworth.

WANTED, Mon. next, also Jan. 10, 17, 24, THE BELLINIS (lady and gent.), Equilibristic and Aerial Gymnast Pot-pourri Act. Last week, bottom of bill, People's Palace, Portsmouth, 2nd return in less than three months. Managers requiring a first-class speciality for Monday, wire quick, this week (topping), Hippodrome, Woking.
A Prosperous New Year to all friends.

WANTED Wanted Known,
THE BROS. LLOYD,
THE BROS. LLOYD,
THE BROS. LLOYD,
THE BROS. LLOYD,
THE BROS. LLOYD,
the World's Greatest Tight-rope Artistes, in their Double-bounding Cable Act. Battleship Setting.
Wanted(offers. Jan. 3, 10, Feb. 14, 21.
Wanted(offers. Jan. 3, 10, Feb. 14, 21.
Wanted(offers. Jan. 3, 10, Feb. 14, 21.

Coms.: This, Waverley Market, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Monday next, THE WONDERFUL SELBINIS, (5 in number), Presenting their Original and Beautiful Cycle Pot-pourri, "Black and White." Introducing Trick Cycling, Tumbling, Toe Dancing, Acrobatic Skating and Head-to-head Balancing, concluding with Sensational Feat on Roller Skates. This week, Hippodrome, Bristol. Wire.

WANTED Known, Wanted Known.
The
HANLON CHARLES QUARTETTE
HANLON CHARLES QUARTETTE
HANLON CHARLES QUARTETTE
HANLON CHARLES QUARTETTE
HANLON CHARLES QUARTETTE
HANLON CHARLES QUARTETTE
of
Lady and Gentlemen, Flying Trapeze, Bars, Gymnastic Aerial Act,
including Arthur Hanlon, Jun.,
the best and most varied double and triple somersault performer in the world, bar none.

Free Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.
This week, Hippo., Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Jan. 10, 17, 24, March 6, 24, by The FRENCH MORANDINIS.
The FRENCH MORANDINIS.
The FRENCH MORANDINIS.
The FRENCH MORANDINIS.
Wonderful Acrobats.
This, Pal., Burnley; next, Hippo., Middlesbro'. Month Feb., Paris, Medrano.

WANTED, Jan. 3, 10, and 17, by
ATLAS-VULCANA TROUPE.
ATLAS-VULCANA TROUPE.
ATLAS-VULCANA TROUPE.
The Society Athletes.

Greatest Top of Bill Speciality Extant.

Wire, ATLAS, Gosford Lodge, Fulham.

WANTED, Monday next, Jan. 10, 17, and on, for the thrilling Dramatic Sketch,
"A ROOK'S NEST."
(By F. Brook Warren. Author of "The Face at the Window," &c.)

All coms., CHAS. F. DIXON, 16, Lugsdale-road, Widnes.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 10 and 17 (owing to misunderstanding with Mr. J. Price, Merthyr), T. Norman Akeroyd and Josephine Richards & Co., in a pleasing and successful Playlet,
"A BABY'S SHOE."
Booked over forty dates since production, April, 1915. Any reasonable offer, Share or Salary. Wire for Monday, AKEROYD Lyceum, Taunton. Big success. Refer Mr. J. B. Isles. Last week, Hippo., Exeter. Refer Mr. J. A. Fitchett. Agents, Peels, Ltd. (London), Kenyon (Bolton), or Hyman's (Birmingham and Newcastle).

WANTED, Wanted, Jan. 3. Vacant, Jan. 3.

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THE MERRYMAKERS.
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Six First-class Artistes.
Three ladies; three gents.
In a Brilliant Comedy and Vocal Entertainment.
All the elements of a revue.
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WANTED, Wanted, Wanted
Monday next, Jan. 3.
Monday next, Jan. 3.
Monday next, Jan. 3.
Monday next, Jan. 3.
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The Sketch that has No Equal in the way of laughter.

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WANTED Jan. 10 and on, for LILIAN BEAUMONT'S Comedy Sketches, "Sally Mine" and "Woman's Rights." Three artistes; 20 and 25 minutes. Albany Ward Tour return. This, Palace, Warminster. Next, Empire, Carmarthen.

STUART CLEVELAND'S NO. 1 CO.
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WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Jan. 10, 17, 24, and on.

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